



FROM BREAKDOWN TO BREAKTHROUGH IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

NEHEMIAH 5-7

Four areas of attack:

To be Selfish or Superior or Scared or Sloppy

(Neh. 5)

(Neh. 6)

(Neh. 7)

ATTACK 1 - TO BE SELFISH (NEH. 5:1-13)

- Nehemiah 5 - Rebuilding sidelined by internal problems
- Acts – External attacks to make scared
 - Internal attacks to be selfish

- Neh. 5:1-9 - An attack in the area of selfishness
 - God's people divided by monetary selfishness
- Jews were charging interest to Jews who had to mortgage their lands and then sell their kids as slaves to survive a famine and heavy foreign taxation



- Neh. 5:10-13 - Don't exploit or enslave your fellow believers. Rather be generous and caring to our brothers and sisters in need.

- Lending money and not charging interest to the needy
 - Restoring land and property to the poor
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- ‘Usury is interest that is either too high or should not be charged at all. The Bible says it is wrong to make money off of someone’s financial need; if someone needs money for the most basic needs of life, they should be given money, not loaned it at interest. Of course, loaning money at interest is permitted for things that aren’t absolute necessities. Yet God’s people must always use great wisdom and self-control in borrowing money.’

(enduringword.com)

A FIRST STEP MAY BE HOW WE TREAT OUR FELLOW BELIEVERS IN THE CHURCH

- *Exodus 22:25* ESV “If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.

A DESCRIPTION OF CARING GENEROSITY IN THE EARLIEST CHURCH:

Acts 4:32,34-35 ESV [32] *Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.....[34] There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold [35] and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

ATTACK 2 - TO BE SUPERIOR (NEH. 5:14-19)

- Most of us exercise (leadership) influence in some way
- Attacked to make our influence a matter of superiority



- Nehemiah 5:14-19

- The example of a servant, not superior, leader



- The danger of seeing leadership as about having privilege for self

- V14 *"the food allowance of the governor"*

- V15 *"The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people."*

(ESV)

- Rather be a servant leader, (from the bottom up) like Nehemiah, who is making provision for others, and not lording it over the people.

- *V6-17 - [16] we acquired no land, [17] Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, [18] Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. (ESV)*

JESUS ON SERVANT LEADERSHIP - MATTHEW 20:17-28

- *Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant” (v25-26) (ESV)*

HOW TO GET THIS HEART OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP?

- *Neh. 5:15* ESV - *The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God.*

We are servants because only God is great!