

SERMON SERIES

NEHEMIAH:
Recommitting
God's People
to God's Glory



A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND

NEHEMIAH 5

Message Guide | April 18, 2021

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RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

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TODAY'S MESSAGE | APRIL 18, 2021

A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand

NEHEMIAH 5

The only thing more effective than external forces in hindering God's kingdom – the outworking of ministry in a local church or a Christian's life – is interpersonal conflict. When the wall was being built and Nehemiah and the remnant successfully met the threat of attack from outside, they were severely hindered by the conflict inside.

Look at how it started and how it was resolved, and again, note how God was at work behind the scenes and in their hearts:

1. THE SOURCE OF INTERNAL CONFLICT (vv. 1-5)

- The surest cause of internal strife is always **Selfishness** (v. 1; James 4:1). Till today this deadly poison is destroying families, relationships, and churches.
- Three groups were affected:
 - (v. 2) Starving families with many children and no collateral.
 - (v. 3) Starving families who forfeited property from failure to pay their loans.
 - (v. 4) Those who borrowed money to pay property taxes.

Verse 5 is painful to read, because some sold their children to slavery to pay off debts.

2. THE SOLUTION TO INTERNAL CONFLICT (vv. 6-19)

How do you go about solving a conflict that can destroy what you and others have worked so hard for, that which God called you to do?

- 1) **CARE ABOUT THE HURTING** (v. 6 "*I was very angry when I heard their outcry*"): There's a place for righteous indignation when it's driven by compassion.
- 2) **CONSIDER THE MATTER SERIOUSLY** (v. 7 "*I took counsel with myself*" really means "*after seriously considering the matter*")
 - Have a moment with yourself, and make sure to pray as you do (consult God). Nowhere is haste more harmful than in handling relational issues. Never trust your words while you are hurting. As the saying goes, "hush until you heal".



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- 3) **CONFRONT THE PERSON/S PRIVATELY** (v. 7 “*I brought charges against the nobles and the officials*”). When you are ready, and you have bathed everything in prayer, follow this principle reiterated in Matthew 18:15.
- 4) **CORRECT THE PROBLEM PUBLICLY (if the situation demands it)**. (v. 7 “*And I held a great assembly against them*”). In this case, the nation was now divided into the few “haves” who had been taking advantage of the many “have nots”. Of course, the victims hated the usurers. When it reaches that magnitude, public conflict must be publicly corrected.
- 5) **CONTINUOUSLY MODEL THE SOLUTION** (v. 10, 14-19) – Nehemiah didn’t just lecture it, he lived it. Four Things Nehemiah Did Because of his Fear of God:
 - 1) He did not lay heavy burdens on the people (v. 15)
 - 2) He persevered on the wall. He never lost focus (v. 16)
 - 3) He did not take advantage of the poor – “we acquired no land” (v. 16)
 - 4) He did not abuse his food allowance because it would be sourced from the very people he was trying to help (vv. 14-19). Oh, to have public servants like this!

What was the outcome? The guilty parties vowed, (v. 13) “*We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say*” ... *And all the assembly said “Amen” and praised the LORD*. Besides repentance, there was an actual return of what was unjustly taken.

FINAL THOUGHTS

When your efforts lead to the worship of God and the blessing of others, then you know what you are doing is pleasing to God.

It all begins with the right heart. The heart that fears God, hears God (Psalm 25:14). Only God can give us such a heart, and today we acquire that heart through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, the Life-changer. And if you already know Christ, then “walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us” (Ephesian 5:2). That will make you God’s peacemaker, not satan’s troublemaker. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think internal division is often more harmful to a church or ministry than external persecution? Please explain your answer.
2. How does obeying Christ's command to "love God, and love your neighbor" become an effective "vaccine" against internal conflicts in church families and Christian families?
3. As you pray together, take a minute of silence to deliberately forgive and let go of anyone who has hurt you lately. If there are quite a few, take your time. Then let someone close in prayer for all your hearts to be filled with the love that Christ has for you, so that you can love others in the same way.

Download the study guide: bit.ly/NehemiahStudyGuides



WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

BDO

BDO Corporate Center
Savings Account: **000661590216**

METROBANK

Ortigas Sapphire
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Ortigas ADB
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Ortigas Emerald
Peso Savings Account: **9823 0217 01**

UNIONBANK

UB Plaza
Checking Account: **0005-9001-0426**

ROBINSONS BANK

Main Office
Savings Account: **1000-3010-0017-355**

PAYPAL

Please visit **gcf.org.ph/give**

Scan QR code below:

GCASH



PAYMAYA



Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also give to support the church family's COVID relief efforts. Just indicate "**For COVID-19 Fund**" when you email your transaction document.

GCF RELIEF OPERATIONS FOR #UlyssesPH VICTIMS

We are accepting CASH donations for the typhoon victims. Email a copy of your transaction slip to **finance@gcf.org.ph** with the subject "Typhoon Ulysses"

CHURCH UPDATES



NO ON-SITE CONGREGATION

We are taking a break until further notice.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Starting this Sunday, April 18, our 5:00 PM Service will have sign language interpreters.

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Mondays and Fridays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF Facebook and YouTube

LIVEstream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m. | on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 1:00 p.m | on Facebook at @GCFKidsLIFE

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | 9 p.m. | via Zoom

DISCOVERING WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS (6-WEEK ONLINE BIBLE STUDY)

Sundays | 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | via Zoom

Pre-registration required:

(Precept) Ms Goldie/Jen: 0917-7732378 • (GCF) Marj: 0917-7791549

YA TOUGH TOPICS: WHEN SHOULD I LEAVE MY CHURCH?

April 21, 2021 | 8:00 p.m. | LIVE on GCF Facebook and YouTube page

A TASTE OF GRACE PHILIPPINES (ONLINE)

April 29, 2021 | 8 — 10:30 a.m. | via BlueJeans | Contact Mela at 0917-5327740

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Message us your prayer requests at:

Facebook: Greenhills Christian Fellowship | E-mail: pray@gcf.org.ph

GROW IN A GROWTH GROUP

YACIES GROWTH GROUP | MIXED (SINGLES/MARRIED; AGE 30 TO 45)

Tuesdays | 8:00 p.m. | via Zoom | with Dr. Luan Yara

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

Are you joining us for the first time? We would love to get to know you more! Visit bit.ly/GCFwelcome



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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