

NEHEMIAH

Loving Our City

WEALTH AND WORSHIP

Mosaic Principle

Deuteronomy 15

⁴ *However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, ⁵ if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.*

Poor in Jerusalem

- **Agrarian Society**
 - Your _____ is your job
 - Finance in the spring against your harvest
 - Family, land and you are _____
- **Debt Slavery**
 - Six years to freedom
 - Jubilee every 50 years
 - No evidence that it was _____
- **So, you are freed? Now what?**
 - No land, so you can't go back to your job
 - *Three Choices*
 - Move to the city and get a _____ job
 - Join the _____
 - Get your slave job back

Poor in America

Comparable?

- *Poor in the Land of Plenty*
- *It takes ____% more today than 30 years ago to be middle class*
- *Postmodern generations want it all now*

Looming Crisis

The Poor Get Poorer

- *Jews were buying back Jewish slaves from Gentile owners*
- *Came back to Jerusalem during famine*
- *Redeemed Jews fell behind in payments*
- *Some are resold, but this time to Jewish owners.*

Next Week:

Guest Speaker Jayson Nash

Nehemiah 5:1-10

Just when things were going so well . . .

- All the men working on the walls were not working their _____
- The mortgaged land was in jeopardy
- King's _____ were due
- The women _____

Crumbling Society

- Debt Mounting
- Selling _____ into slavery to pay creditors
- Hammurabic law allows up to 30% interest
- Jews were following Babylonian law, not the laws of Moses

Points out Hypocrisy

- So, it is ok to enslave our own people, we just don't want others doing it?
- They knew they had no defense.

Fear God

- God is the one that allows us to rebuild the walls. Don't mess that up!

Nehemiah's Confession

- He and his group are also lending money
- Doesn't say if they are charging interest
- But, he does declare that it must stop
- Orders everyone to give back money, land and houses

Identify with the

John 8

- ³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.
- ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

