

Justice (and Planning)

Nehemiah 5:1-19



Understanding the Bible:
What is the problem being
expressed in this Bible passage?

How does God show up in this Bible Passage?

What did Nehemiah tell the nobles to do for the people?

My favorite song today:

Things I will pray for this week:

Today's Bible Passage: Nehemiah 5:1-19

(Can you find the highlighted words?)

S R M O N E Y D G V Y G
O O F F I C I A L S O M
F V M I Y A D B R Y N D
I I K E S L F E L L O W
E N W A O U T C R Y B I
L E T S L H U A O P L G
D Y C E G I A U L E E I
S A H U R I V S I O S J
G R A I N E V E V P H E
R D R S O N S E E L N W
E S G Y F G O T H E R S
A G E N T I L E H F T Y
T L S B A C K T E F R D

Now the men and their wives raised a **great outcry** against their **fellow Jews**. **Some** were saying, "We and our **sons** and **daughters** are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay **alive**, we must get **grain**." **Others** were saying, "We are mortgaging our **fields**, our **vineyards** and our homes to get **grain** during the famine." Still **others** were saying, "We have had to borrow **money** to pay the king's tax on our **fields** and **vineyards**. Although

we are of the same flesh and blood as our **fellow Jews** and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our **sons** and **daughters** to slavery. **Some** of our **daughters** have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, **because** our **fields** and our **vineyards** belong to **others**." When I heard their **outcry** and these **charges**, I was very angry. I pondered them in my mind and **then** accused the **nobles** and **officials**. I told them, "You are charging your own **people interest!**" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them and **said**: "As far as possible, we have bought **back** our **fellow Jews** who were **sold** to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own **people**, only for them to be **sold back** to us!" They kept quiet, **because** they could find nothing to say. So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our **Gentile** enemies? I and my brothers and my men are **also** lending the **people money** and **grain**. But let us stop charging **interest!** **Give back** to them immediately their **fields**, **vineyards**, **olive** groves and houses, and **also** the **interest** you are charging them—one percent of the **money**, **grain**, new wine and **olive** oil." "We will **give** it **back**," they **said**. "And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say." **Then** I summoned the priests and made the **nobles** and **officials** take an oath to do what they had promised.