



February 20, 2022

Read Nehemiah 5:14-19

1. Nehemiah had taken great measures against slavery and the oppression of the poor in 5:1-13.
  - a. In verses 14-15, what historical and cultural facts can we learn?
2. Even though Nehemiah had the right (legal authority, culturally acceptable) to the food allowance, he did not exercise his right.
  - a. What application can you make to our day?
  - b. What is legal, culturally acceptable, that perhaps we should refrain from?
  - c. What does Paul say to this in the N.T.? (see Ro 14:13-23)
3. How prevalent do you think it is in America that Christians lay down their freedom in Christ for the sake of others? What about you?
4. In verse 15, we read Nehemiah's motivation. It is not primarily humanitarian! Why do you think the Bible makes the distinction between man-centered motivation and God-centered motivation?
5. What do you believe is the main motivation in much of what passes for humanitarian compassion?
6. In vs.17-18 What did Nehemiah provide at his personal expense?
  - a. Why was he expected to do so? (hint: His job required him to)
  - b. How would most today treat a business expense?
7. v.19 From whom does Nehemiah seek favor?
8. Whom do we often seek favor from?