

Nehemiah 5 : Vision for Justice



Overview of the message:

In the middle of re-building Jerusalem's walls, Nehemiah takes time to deal with an important issue of injustice among God's people. Their whole project and life was being jeopardised by the experience of injustice and poverty.

Why did this matter?

Slavery and poverty had been the experience of the nation in exile (v7), so their freedom needed to be used responsibly. In the same way, we can respond to Jesus by responding to the needs we see around us in the world. Whatever we do to "the least of these my brothers" we do for Jesus.

What was Nehemiah's response to the problem?

1. It was both emotional and intelligent (v6-7)
2. It got to the heart of the issue (v7-9)
3. He acknowledged his part in the problem (v10)
4. It involved personal action (v17-18)

Questions

1. Consider other scriptures which show how God wants us to respond to human need and poverty. (eg Deuteronomy 10:18-19, Proverbs 30:8-9, Matthew 25:34-40, James 1:27, 1 John 3:16-18)
2. How can we respond with God's love to the needs and poverty we see in the world, both individually and as a church?