

Nehemiah 5:1-19

I. Dangers from _____

"No city or house divided against itself will stand." [Matthew 12:25]

A. Economic and _____ erosion

"Let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive."

Oppression is taking place within the covenant community--in the _____!

B. Solidarity is being _____

1. All people are created in the image of God

The imago Dei is the basis of social _____

"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker...." [Proverb 14:31a]

2. There is a special _____ within the covenant community

"As we have opportunity, let us _____ to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." [Galatians 6:10]

C. Self-regard – the love of _____

The only time idolatry is given a specific _____

"There are two things which every person needs to remember about money:

it cannot _____, and it will not _____." [Stott, 99]

II. Nehemiah's response

A. His _____ is engaged

"I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words" [6]

B. His _____ is engaged--*"I took counsel with myself"* [7a]

C. The _____ is engaged--*"I held a great assembly"* [7b]

1. Collective wakeup call – vs. cruise control

2. The perpetrators needed to _____ those who were suffering

D. His _____ is engaged – Nehemiah is moved with pity

E. All of Nehemiah's _____ are engaged

1. Time and energy--*"I persevered in the work on this wall"* [16]

2. He does not _____ what is rightfully his

3. He puts his money where his mouth is – he is _____

F. What fuels Nehemiah's convictions?

1. Reverence for _____

"Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God" [9]

2. Compassion for _____

III. The Greater Nehemiah

Jesus did not stand by his _____

He made full provision for our _____ need on the cross

IV. How do we then live?

A. We are _____ social workers

1. We are to be _____--*"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion"* [Second Corinthians 9:11]

2. We are to be _____ givers

B. Benevolence is the _____ of a covenant culture

C. Benevolence is a _____

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." [John 13:35]

CTK Vow of Outreach: *"We will find ways to promote the _____ of the poor and needy, to be merciful to others as God has been merciful to us."*