

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 25, 2015

“A Time to Build: Lessons From the Book of Nehemiah ~
Preserving Peace”
Nehemiah 5:1-13

What we’re doing here this morning?

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.” (Ps 127:1)

☐ **Building Block #1: The Importance of** _____.

☐ **Building Block #2: The Importance of** _____.

☐ **Building Block #3: The Importance of** _____.

☐ **Building Block #4: The Importance of** _____.

☐ **Building Block #5: Defeating** _____.

☐ **Building Block #6:** _____.

“It is not an enemy who taunts me—I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me—I could have hidden from them. Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend. What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God.” (Psalm 55:12-14)

INTERNAL CONFLICT & THE 3 COMPLAINTS

“About this time some of the men and their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews.” (Nehemiah 5:1)

Complaints. #1: We’re _____

“They were saying, ‘We have such large families. We need more food to survive.’” (Nehemiah 5:2)

Complaints. #2: We’re _____

“Others said, ‘We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes to get food during the famine.’” (Nehemiah 5:3)

Complaints. #3: We’re being _____

“And others said, ‘We have had to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay our taxes. We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just

to get enough money to live. We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields and vineyards are already mortgaged to others.’” (Nehemiah 5:4-5)

This complaint was about _____ and _____.

NEHEMIAH’S RESPONSE

“When I heard their complaints, I was very angry.” (Nehemiah 5:6)

anger = hara =

This is what the Bible calls _____ anger.

“After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials.” (Neh 5:7)

“It is better to be slow-tempered than famous, it is better to have self-control than conquer a city.” (Proverbs 16:32)

NEHEMIAH’S REBUKE: 6 REMINDERS

#1: He reminded them about _____.

“I told them, ‘You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!’” (Nehemiah 5:7)

#2. He reminded them of God’s _____.

“We are doing all we can to redeem our Jewish relatives who have had to sell themselves to pagan foreigners, but you are selling them back into slavery again. How often must we redeem them?” (Nehemiah 5:8)

#3. His reminded them about God’s _____.

“Then I pressed further, ‘What you are doing is not right!’” (Nehemiah 5:9a)

“Do not charge interest on the loans you make to a fellow Israelite, whether you loan money, or food, or anything else. You may charge interest to foreigners, but you may not charge interest to Israelites...” (Deuteronomy 23:19-20)

#4. He reminded them of their _____.

Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations?” (Nehemiah 5:9b)

#5. He reminded them of his own _____.

“I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest. You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very

day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.” (Nehemiah 5:10-11)

#6. He reminded them of God’s _____.

“They replied, ‘We will give back everything and demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say.’ Then I called the priests and made the nobles and officials swear to do what they had promised. I shook out the folds of my robe and said, ‘If you fail to keep your promise, may God shake you like this from your homes and from your property!’ The whole assembly responded, ‘Amen,’ and they praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.” (Nehemiah 5:12-13)

Shaking off his robe =

Amen =

Corporate praise =

3 IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

#1. There is a direct correlation between the _____ of our mission and how we _____ each other.

#2. Relational problems are _____ and we can’t ignore them.

#3. God’s _____ is at stake when we have conflict.

THE PEACE PLAN: 5 STEPS TO BEING A PEACEMAKER

Step #1. P: _____.

“If you remember that your brother has something against you, go at once to make peace.” (Matthew 5:24)

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbour’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!” (Matthew 5:43)

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

Who do you need to have a peace conference with?

“God does not want us to be in disorder but in harmony and peace.”
(1 Corinthians 14:33)

Step #2. E: _____.

“Be full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” (1 Peter 3:8)

Sympathy=

Empathy =

“None of you should think only of his own affairs, but consider the other person’s interests also.” (Philippians 2:4)

How easily do you empathize with others?

“Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other.” (Colossians 3:15)

Step #3. A: _____.

“Bold reproof leads to peace.” (Proverbs 10:10)

“Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.” (Ephesians 4:15)

“Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed.” (Ephesians 4:29)

When you find yourself in a conflict, what do you attack?

“So let’s pursue those things which bring peace and which are good for each other.” (Romans 14:19)

#4. C: _____.

“Wisdom is peace loving and courteous. It allows discussion. It is willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere.” (James 3:17)

“Peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.” (James 3:18)

What are you planting in your relationships?

“A person of peace has a wonderful future ahead of them...a happy ending.” (Psalm 37:37)

Step #5. E: _____.

Resolution =

Reconciliation =

“God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Who do you need to seek reconciliation with?

“He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.” (Colossians 1:19)