

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Nehemiah 5:1-19

(August 5, 2026)

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. Nehemiah grew angry when he heard the cries of the oppressed people, yet he paused to take counsel before acting -- in what ways does righteous anger, when tempered by reflection and prayer, lead to more effective and God-honoring responses than immediate reaction?
2. The sermon points out that the Devil, having failed to destroy the church through persecution, chose instead to work from within -- how can a congregation remain vigilant against internal division while still maintaining a spirit of grace and unity?
3. Nehemiah held the nobles and officials publicly accountable for their exploitation of the poor, and they were silenced because they had no defense -- what does this tell us about the responsibility of spiritual and community leaders to confront injustice even when it is uncomfortable or costly?
4. The people of Jerusalem were suffering under the weight of famine, debt, and taxation, yet they brought their grievances to their leader rather than rioting -- what does this reveal about the kind of trust that must exist between a community and its leadership, and how is that trust built?
5. Nehemiah refused to take the food allowance that was his right as governor, choosing instead to fund his table from his own resources -- how does his example of servant leadership challenge the way we think about authority, entitlement, and sacrifice in both the church and broader society?
6. Proverbs 21:13 warns that those who close their ears to the cry of the poor will one day cry out and not be answered -- in what practical ways should this warning shape how the church responds to poverty and need within its own congregation and surrounding community?
7. The sermon draws a parallel between the neglect of the poor in Nehemiah 5 and the situation described in Acts 6:1, where widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution -- what does the recurrence of this theme throughout Scripture suggest about the ongoing challenge of caring for the vulnerable within communities of faith?
8. Nehemiah called the priests to make the nobles and officials swear an oath before God to restore what they had taken, treating the promise as a sacred and binding covenant -- how seriously do we treat our commitments to one another in the church today, and what would it look like to recover that sense of sacred accountability?
9. The sermon emphasizes that if you preach it, you must live it, pointing to Nehemiah's twelve years of consistent example -- in what ways does the credibility of a leader's message depend on the alignment between their words and their daily life, and how does a lack of that alignment damage the community they lead?
10. Nehemiah closes this chapter with a simple prayer asking God to remember his faithfulness -- what does this quiet appeal to God, rather than to public recognition or reward, teach us about the true motivation that should drive our service to others and our leadership within the body of Christ?