

Sunday 26th February 2023

Nehemiah 5:1-19

This morning we continued with our series looking at the Book of Nehemiah. After different challenges through which Nehemiah insisted the building work on the walls was to continue, the people of Jerusalem now face such a big challenge that Nehemiah calls a halt to the building works and brings all the people together.

1. As you read through the first 19 verses of Chapter 5, who are the 3 groups of people who have been suffering in the City of Jerusalem?
2. What is the general problem that Nehemiah realised was so great that he called a halt to the building works?
3. The general problem was caused by 2 specific issues:
 - I. The charging of interest (*see Deut. 15:7-11*)
 - II. People were focusing on their hardship rather than the work of God
Where do you see these issues today and how could you be part of the solution?
4. The solution that Nehemiah arrived at had 2 parts:
 - I. V 10-11, stop charging interest
 - II. The assembled people repented
What is the view of the Church of England on the charging of interest? (*see [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/High Interest Lending Policy.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/High%20Interest%20Lending%20Policy.pdf) for the Church's view & comment on Biblical guidance and contemporary theology*).
5. As a result of repenting, the people of Jerusalem became (once again) a 'people of the Book'. What does that mean to you and how might we as individuals and a church grow to be more of a 'people of the Book'?
6. What would that look like in this day and age?
7. How might we go about becoming more of a 'people of the Book'?
8. Does becoming more a 'people of the Book' feel like a backwards step as society moves forwards? How can we reconcile these apparent differences?