

# DON'T GROW WEARY IN DOING GOOD

## NEHEMIAH 5:14-19

### CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MARCH 24, 2024

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#### SCRIPTURE READING

##### *Nehemiah 5:14-19 ESV*

14 Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. 15 The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. 16 I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. 17 Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. 18 Now what was prepared at my expense[d] for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. 19 Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

#### SERMON RECAP

1. See your opportunities to influence others as a responsibility before God.
2. Steward your opportunities to influence others for their good.
  - Willing to sacrifice your rights (e.g., freedom of speech, freedom of religion)
  - Selflessly serve in your relationships (e.g., family members, friends, co-workers, classmates)
  - Generously share your resources (e.g., money, talents, time, power, privileges, position)
3. Seek and be satisfied in the commendation of God alone.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

##### **Observation: What does the passage say?**

1. Read Nehemiah 5:14-19 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
  - What do we learn about Nehemiah's leadership and how he handled his promotion? Nehemiah 5:14-18
    - What promotion did Nehemiah receive and how long did he serve in this role? Nehemiah 5:14
    - What rights and privileges accompanied this role? Nehemiah 5:14, 18
    - How did Nehemiah steward his rights and privileges? Nehemiah 5:14b, 16-18
    - How did he steward the resources that were entrusted to him? Nehemiah 5:17-18
  - In contrast, what do we learn about the previous leaders? Nehemiah 5:14, 15
    - What did they do? How did they exercise their rights and privileges? Nehemiah 5:14, 15
    - What are some differences between their leadership style and Nehemiah's?
  - How did his leadership influence the behavior of those around him? Nehemiah 5:14, 16
  - What was Nehemiah's motivation? Whose praise and applause did he seek? Nehemiah 15:15b, 19
2. How would you summarize Nehemiah 5:14-19 in your own words?

##### **Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

1. How did Nehemiah view his promotion? Nehemiah 2:8, 2:18, 5:15 How should we view any opportunities of influences or promotion that we receive? And what safeguards should we have in place? Psalm 75:6-7, 1 Peter 4:10
2. Why did Nehemiah choose to not take advantage of the rights of food and property when it was not wrong to do so? – Nehemiah 5:14, 18
  - How does God call his people to sacrifice some of their rights for the good of others? 1 Cor 9:12-14, Philippians 2:3-4
3. How did Nehemiah view his position of leadership? Nehemiah 5:14-16
  - What does God require of leaders? Ezekiel 34:1-4 What are some warnings for leaders who misuse their rights and privileges? Ezekiel 34:10-11

- How does Jesus model leadership? Mark 10:45, John 10:11, John 13:12-17, Philippians 2:6-9
  - How are leaders called to serve those entrusted to their care? 1 Peter 5:2-4
4. How are believers called to use their resources different from the world's? Proverbs 3:27-28, Matt 25:35-36, Act 2:42-45, Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Galatians 6:9
  5. What does scripture teach about the dangers of seeking man's approval rather than God's approval? Matthew 6:24, 25:25; John 12:43 What should be our alternate motivation? 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23, Galatians 2:10

**Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?**

1. How are you currently viewing your opportunities to influence others? In your RELATIONSHIPS? With your RESOURCES? Through your RIGHTS?
  - Do you see these opportunities as a gift and responsibility before God? If not, what challenges or struggles do you face?
  - As you steward these opportunities, are you satisfied in God's pleasure in you? If not, in what ways are you tempted to seek the praise of man, rather than the praise of God?
2. What are 2-3 ways that God is calling you today to more faithfully steward your opportunities to influence others for their good? Any specific step(s) can you take this week to:
  - Sacrifice your RIGHTS for the good of others?
  - Selflessly serve in one or more of your RELATIONSHIPS?
  - Share your RESOURCES more generously?
3. In light of today's discussion, how can your church group/huddle members pray for you?

**LEADER NOTES**

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** | Join us for our all-location Good Friday service on Friday, March 29th from 7-8:30pm in the Tysons Auditorium. Families are welcome! For more information about each locations Easter gatherings, please visit [mcleanbible.org/easter](https://mcleanbible.org/easter)

**SERVE WITH US ON EASTER!** | There are many opportunities to serve on Easter as we prepare, Lord willing, to host many new visitors and guests. Click below to see some of the ways you can serve at your MBC Location on Easter Sunday!

- ARLINGTON | <https://mcleanbible.org/arlinton/volunteer-2/>
- LOUDOUN | <https://mcleanbible.org/loudoun/volunteer/>
- MONTGOMERY COUNTY | [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVmCSuiqSsxLm7\\_hBdaLGJb3QVfXb\\_vLHHvhkOoSzev2eEHg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVmCSuiqSsxLm7_hBdaLGJb3QVfXb_vLHHvhkOoSzev2eEHg/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- PRINCE WILLIAM | <https://mcleanbible.org/prince-william/volunteer/>
- TYSONS | <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COA4EAFAA23A0FA7-48188799-2024#/>

**SECRET CHUCH 24** | Gather your church group and join us at MBC Tysons on April 19 for Secret Church, a unique, one-night, intensive time in prayer and God's Word with one of our Lead Pastors, David Platt. He will walk us word-by-word through the book of Ruth, we will learn about needs among the unreached, and we will pray together for the persecuted church around the world. Register [HERE](#) today to save your seats!