

How to Stop Strife
Leadership Lessons from Nehemiah—Part 5
Nehemiah 5:1-19
February 4, 2018

As we work through chapter 5, let us look at how Nehemiah handled the strife that was starting to overwhelm the work of building the wall:

A. The _____ Nehemiah Heard (1-5).

There were four different groups of people who were involved in the community crisis:

1. People who owned _____ land but needed food (verse 2).
2. Landowners who had _____ their property in order to buy food (verse 3).
3. Another group complained that _____ were too high (verse 4).
4. Those who were _____ others (verse 5).

B. The second thing we need to look at are the _____ Nehemiah Took (6-13).

After thinking things over, Nehemiah decided to publicly confront the people whose selfishness had created the strife:

1. He appealed to their _____ (v. 7).
2. He reminded them of God's _____ purpose (v. 8).
3. His appeal was based on God's _____ (v. 9a).
4. They needed to _____ their witness (v. 9b).
5. He appealed to his own _____ (v. 10-11).
6. He appealed to the _____ of God (v. 12-13).

Nehemiah then concluded this special business meeting with three actions in verse 13 that lifted up the seriousness of what they had decided to do:

1. Nehemiah shook out the _____ of his robe, which symbolized what God would do if they broke their vow.
2. The congregation responded with a collective “_____” which was a solemn assent to what had been said.

3. Then they _____ the Lord in unison.

C. The _____ Nehemiah Set (14-19)

Principles to Ponder:

1. There is a direct correlation between the _____ of our mission and how we treat each other.
2. Relational problems are inevitable and we can't _____ them.
3. We must take the _____ to restore relationships whether we want to or not.
4. God's _____ is at stake when we have conflict.

Practical Action Steps:

1. Make sure it's a _____ issue. (v. 6)
2. Think before _____. (v. 7)
3. _____ face-to-face. (v. 8)
4. Seek _____.