

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

*Accompanies podcast "Listening" - 6/7/20
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Read Nehemiah 5

Place yourself in the shoes of the nobles and officials in Jerusalem. What do you think could have been their rationale or justification for how the system got to be the way it is? Do you think similar rationales are used today to justify oppression?

A "great outcry" such as the people raised can be messy and uncomfortable. Yet Nehemiah was able to listen well to the people's complaint. Why is it sometimes so difficult to hear what's being said?

How does Nehemiah show us Jesus here? Can you think of an example where Christ displayed similar concern for the oppressed and unheard?

Nehemiah's response in verses 6-8 included 3 elements: emotionally connecting, mentally engaging and actively repairing. Which of those responses do you find most challenging?

The people listened to Nehemiah and replied, "We will do as you say." Spend some time listening to God about your own role in addressing oppression, injustice and racism. Ask him to show you where you can respond, "I will do as you say."