

The Usage of Power

Nehemiah 5



Week Seven

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Nehemiah 5

TEMPTATIONS OF LEADERSHIP

Whether it's by appointment, accomplishment, election, perception, or ability, when individuals are called to serve, they are called to leadership regardless of title. They may not be up front, calling the shots and directing the masses—traffic officers can do this, but this does not make them leaders. They are not necessarily those who speak publicly with eloquence and zeal—actors can do this, but this does not make them leaders.

Leaders are agents of change. Some leaders use the power given them to influence positive change in their spheres. Others use their fame to influence the opinion of others. Yet others maneuver their positions to force a result. There is even a type of leadership that employs wealth to acquire resources for some goal. As many styles as there are of leadership, all Christian disciples are called to leadership of one sort or another. The book of Nehemiah teaches us that we are to use authority, influence, fame, position, or wealth for the kingdom of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The temptation of leadership, though, is twofold. Some leaders fail through overstepping their jurisdiction, while others fail through not using the authority rightfully theirs. Let us study Nehemiah 5 to see how it illustrates these lessons of leadership.



Write out Nehemiah 5 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Nehemiah 5:6–8, 15, 19. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline it, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

Where is accountability needed in your life? Public accountability? Spiritual accountability to God?



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After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?



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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Rom. 12:14–21
- 1 Tim. 6:10
- Acts 2:42–47; 20:32–38



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Nehemiah 5?

Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 5.



Meditate on Nehemiah 5 again and look for Jesus in the chapter.



How is Jesus like, as well as unlike, Nehemiah?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?



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Review your memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



As you have studied this
week, what personal
applications have you been
convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications
you must make in your school,
family, workplace, and church?



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inquire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



Have you ever taken advantage of fellow Christians? In what ways?

How can we practice Christian principles like accountability in a secular world?

How can we practice accountability in the church?

Which is more difficult: using power at the right time or withholding power?

Is the larger culture more worried about personal rights or self-denial? How about you personally?

How should we avert internal crises in the local church today?

How can we emulate Christ's mind-set?

What examples have you seen of forbearance?