

New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church

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Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr.
Bible Study

*“...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which
are able to make thee wise unto salvation...”*
(2 Tim. 3:15)



Assertive Leadership

{Nehemiah 5:6,7}

The fellowship and unity of God’s people must be protected, because without it we can’t achieve much for the Lord. So when we see the first signs of sin we must do all that we can to remove it as quickly as possible. Because when Christian fellowship is damaged, morale gets low; discouragement sets in; and we will implode and eventually fade away. Nehemiah was apparently aware of this as well so when he encountered the sin of greed he quickly jumped into action. It is the faithful leader that is willing to be assertive and stand against sin no matter what it may personally cost you. Because what we ignore, we empower.

v.1) *“And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews.”*

- This problem happened when they were rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem.
- This is an especially bad problem because it was internal and it could potentially slow down their progress. {Num. 12:1,9,10,15}

v.2-4) *“For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat, and live. (*)Some also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth. (*)There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards.*

- The scripture record three reasons why the people began to borrow from the poor: large families, a famine, and taxes.
- The rich began to take advantage of the poor. {Jas. 2:6; Neh. 5:11}

v.6) *“And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.”*

- This news did not go over well with Nehemiah to the point that he became “very angry.”

