

## **Greed Corrected<sup>1</sup>**

### Nehemiah 5

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Every generation has a situation similar to the one recorded in Nehemiah 5.
2. God is supremely interested in man's life, and His book reflects that truth.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

##### **I. The Desolation of Greed**

- A. The "great outcry of the people and of their wives" (v. 1) has rung out in every age.
- B. Solomon said, "Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun..." (Eccle. 4:1).
- C. All of poverty and oppression appear in Nehemiah 5: hunger, debt, mortgage, and servitude (vv. 1-5).
- D. Jesus was poor and showed that the highest moral conditions can coexist with the hardest conditions.
- E. Nehemiah was angry because of the people's...
  1. Want (v. 2)
  2. Degradation because of the want (v. 3; cf. Prov. 30:8, 9)
  3. Hopelessness (v. 5)

##### **II. The Correction of Greed**

- A. Nehemiah arose to amend the evil.
- B. He proceeded to correct greed by...
  1. His exhortation (vv. 6-8)
  2. His example (vv. 14-19)

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Hear the cry of the poor and oppressed.
2. Emulate Nehemiah's self-sacrifice.

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<sup>1</sup> From *The Preacher's Complete Homiletic Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah*, Booth, Goodman, and Gregory, eds. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, reprinted 1974), pp. 108-110. Adapted by Andy Kizer.