

Bible Study Notes for the St. Mary's Ferndown the 30th July 2017
"Leading by example" - Nehemiah chapter 5 verses 9 -19

In these verses we see that the people are crippled by loan interest rates, taxation, inflation, borrowing and exploitation. It sounds very much like today. Because of these pressure God's work is being hampered and the workers on the wall are struggling, not only as individuals but as families. What was happening was against what God had commanded for society (See Exodus 22:25, Deuteronomy 23:19) and was not only wrong the against the people but God. Nehemiah challenges the people and reminds them that unless they stop they will incur the judgment of God.

Bearing this in mind look at the following questions.

- 1) How has Nehemiah lived (vs. 14 - 19)? Why has he lived this way (v.15, v.18)? What does this teach us about Godly leadership?
- 2) What is the significance of what Nehemiah says in verse 13? Is this not a bit over the top? (Look at St. Matthew 18 vs. 15 - 18)
- 3) David Herman in his book "Who cares" says in the average street or road with a thousand adults you can expect to find:-
 - 2 will be blind
 - 13 will drink to excess and may be alcoholics
 - 170 will be State pensioners
 - 30 will have an accident in the home
 - 7 will be involved in accidents on the road. Every sixth year one will die as a result.
 - 600 will go away for their holiday but..
 - 400 will stay at home
 - 100 will be receiving supplementary benefits
 - 2 will die of cancer
 - 20 will be convicted in a magistrates court (mostly driving offences)
 - 100 will be hard of hearing, of these 20 will need a hearing aid.

How and what should we be doing to meet the needs of the people in our road or street?

- 4) What is happening today in society is breaking God's Law, (see Exodus 22 v.25, Deuteronomy 23 v. 19 and Leviticus 25). What should we be doing as Christians to meet peoples needs and change this attitude?

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