

How to Help the Poor

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Introduction: Economic crises and the culture of debt...hear the ticking sound!

Text: Nehemiah 5

Main Idea: The “wall-rebuilding” almost comes to a complete stop. Nehemiah provides us with three perennial truths in dealing with our “debt” and “others”

- I. His Strategic Picture – the Reasons for their poverty – Investigation
 - A. The Crisis Poor – non-landed poor – the desperate poor
 - B. The Chronic Poor – landed with short-term debt – the indebted poor
 - C. The Culturally Poor – landowners with long-term debt – the debt-driven poor

Apply – these categories today...

- II. His Systems Policy – the Public Response – Insight
 - A. The Common Ground of their Redemptive History – “our”, “your” v. 6-8
 - B. The Common Good of Righteous Help – example to “the Gentiles” v, 9-12
 - C. The Common Grant of a Heavenly Return – “blessing & cursing” v. 12,13

Illustration – Katrina, FBC & GBC

- III. His Self-Portrait – the Personal Response – Integrity
 - A. Nehemiah’s practice as governor v. 14-16
 - B. Nehemiah’s provision for those who worked v. 17,18
 - C. Nehemiah’s prayer for reward v. 19

Conclusion:

- How will I care for the poor who come to me?
- How will I confront the causes of poverty within God’s community?
 - How will I be remembered in my concern for the poor under my supervision?