Notes:

FOCUS LIVING FORWARD

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Paying the Price for Progress

Nehemiah 5

David H. McKinley

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The Problem of _____

[1]Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. [2]For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." [3]There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." [4]And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. [5]Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards." —Nehemiah 5:1-5

> Lack of Food–"Hangry!" Nehemiah 5:2
> Loaded With Debt Nehemiah 5:3
> Leveraged by Brothers Nehemiah 5:4
> Living in Bondage Nehemiah 5:5

The Pressure of _____

[35]If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. [36]Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. [37]You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit… [42]For they are My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves. —Leviticus 25:35-37, 42

1. Recognize God's _____ and Your _____

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein. —Psalm 24:1

2. Establish a _____

[9]Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;[10]then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. —Proverbs 3:9-10

[1]Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. [2]On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. —1 Corinthians 16:1-2

3. Plan for _____ and Discipline Yourself to Gain _____

The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives. —Psalm 37:21

4. Develop a Plan to _____, Not a Path to _____

[4]A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. [5]He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.
—Proverbs 10:4-5

5. Pursue a Disposition of _____

[6]But godliness with contentment is great gain, [7]for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. [8]But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. [9]But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. [10]For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. —1 Timothy 6:6-10

6. Trust God's _____ and _____

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. —Matthew 6:33

The Practice of _____

"In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty." —C.S. Lewis

"They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that), but they need not dominate our minds."—C.S. Lewis

[33]But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [34]Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.
—Matthew 6:33-34

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WARREN
A WAY OF LIFE

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