“Biblical Justice for the Poor” - Nehemiah 5:1-19 (March 17, 2019)

As the Jews were trusting God and taking action to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, they were facing not only external threats from enemies, but also internal threats of social injustices within their community. We learn in this passage that it is important to recognize and address such injustices in order that God’s work can move forward in a way that honors God.

1. **Injustices done by God's people hinder the work of God and must be addressed**
   1. **God’s standard of justice is determined by Scripture**
   2. **Biblical justice requires that God’s people tend to the real financial needs of others within God’s family**
   3. **Repentance requires practical restitution and abstinence from wrong actions**
2. **Desperate situations call for leaders to give up their rights for the good of others out of a reverence for God**

***OT passages prohibiting charging interest to a fellow Israelite*** *– Ex. 22:25-27; Lev. 25:36-37; Deut. 15:1-11; 23:19-20****OT passages on indentured servitude of fellow Israelites*** *– Jer. 34:1-22; Lev. 25:39-42; Deut. 15:12-18*