**WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS NOT RIGHT**

Nehemiah 5:1-19 (key 9)

*So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?*

**Introduction[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. What made the men and their wives raise a great outcry against the Jewish nobles and officials? (1-5) Why was Nehemiah very angry when he heard this? (6, 1:7, Leviticus 25:35-43, Matthew 22:37-40)
2. How did Nehemiah deal with the matter? (7-8a) Why did the nobles and officials become silent? (8b) What did Nehemiah then continue to say to them? (9) Here, what can we learn from Nehemiah about being a spiritual leader?
3. What did Nehemiah tell the leaders to immediately do? (10b-11) How could Nehemiah so boldly correct the nobles and officials? (8, 10a, 14-19) Surprisingly, how did the nobles and officials respond? (12a)
4. Why did Nehemiah want the nobles and officials to take an oath? (12b) And shook out the folds of his robe? (12b-13a) Overall, what did you learn from this passage about how to be an effective spiritual leader?

1. This chapter evidently describes a situation that prevailed for more than the 52 days that the wall was under construction (5:14). The writer included it in the text here because it was another situation that threatened to block the rebuilding of the wall. Up to this point Nehemiah's challenges as a spiritual leader focused primarily on those outside of Judah. But before the walls were finally rebuilt, he encountered the most difficult and intense kind of problem almost every spiritual leader has to face—problems within. Instead of putting God's interests first and seeking the welfare of their brethren, the Jewish leaders were putting their own interests first. Nehemiah rebuked and challenged the leaders to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord. They listened to Nehemiah because he practiced what he preached. To be authoritative spiritual leaders, we must walk the talk. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)