

# Catalyst Home Group

Discussion Questions :: 02/14-18, 2010  
**Nehemiah 5**

## Community Serving The Community

As work on the wall continues, a crisis has emerged. A crisis that plagues the Jews on the wall in 435BC and our country & church today in 2010. The reality of sacrificial work, lost jobs, a broken economy, a famine, and failing businesses have created a great chasm between the haves and the have-nots among God's people. To make matters even worse, the people of God are not caring for the people of God. In fact, they are taking advantage of their own; making them foreclose on their homes, forcing slavery and refusing to share their blessings with those struggling. And their selfishness, lack of compassion, and lack of generosity was becoming detrimental to the work of God. It was killing the mission. This made Nehemiah very angry because this is not how the people of God are to behave.

This week, we unpack what it means for the church (community) to serve and care for one another: to each bear the responsibility of work, financing, and caring for one another so that the mission of Jesus will be modeled for and propelled into the outside community.

## Discussion Questions:

[1] What questions do you have from Sunday's sermon? What stood out to you? What confused you?

[2] Who was the most generous person you have ever known? What was their attitude about people and their resources?

[3] Have you ever been the recipient of another's generosity when times were tough?

[4] **Read Nehemiah Chapter 5.** What is the problem here? Sound familiar?

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**Discussion Questions Continued...**

[5] What is Nehemiah's response? Do you think his anger was justified? Do you think God get's angry at his children when we treat each other this way?

[6] Now **read 1 Corinthians 8:1-15.** What stands out? What should be our Christian motivation for generosity and care for others?

[7] Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 on your generosity. 1 being very selfish (you only spend and work for yourself) and 10 being just like Jesus. Why?

*Remember, the issue is not how rich or how poor you are or if one is bad and one is good...it's a matter of the heart that dictates one's generosity.*

*There are wealthy righteous people, wealthy unrighteous people, poor righteous people, and poor unrighteous people. Nehemiah addresses the heart, so does God, and so should we.*

[8] Why is it so important to care for one another within the church: to be generous and give with the same generosity Jesus has shown us?

[9] When Nehemiah revealed their sin and reminded them of their motivation, what was their response? What would be your response?

[10] Practically speaking, what do you think needs to change in your life so you can be more generous both in and out of the church? (Time management, motivation, money management, etc).