



Title: Heart Check: Don't develop a hard heart.

Scripture: Neh. 5:1-13

Date: 08262018

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: The best way to avoid having a hard heart is lovingly deal with conflict.

Vs. 1-2

Let us get grain- When Nehemiah led the rebuilding of the wall, the population grew which means there was a large demand for food.

*People had money problems because they worked hard on the walls and did not spend the same time on providing for the needs of their household.
- Guzik*

Vs. 3

Because of the famine- There was also a famine which was also leading to a shortage of food and the inflation of prices.

Vs. 4

We have borrowed money- We can note that the people had to borrow money to meet their obligations.

If we don't pay attention to our finances, it can impact and limit what we can do for God.

We have to make financial decisions with an eye for eternity. All decisions are spiritual in nature.

Vs. 5

We are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves- People were having a hard time surviving so they sold their children into slavery.

Five Things Nehemiah did to handle a hard situation.

1. He allowed himself to feel the injustice.

The first step to avoid a hard heart is to fully understand the problem at hand.

Vs. 6

I became very angry- Money problems were caused because of the greed of others. Upon hearing the news of what was going on Nehemiah became angry.

Vs. 7

After serious thought- Before Nehemiah reacted he gave this situation serious thought.

He was a man passionate enough to get angry; but wise enough to not act until he had considered the matter carefully. - Guzik

A mark of a good leader is that they pause before they react.

Exacting usury from his brother- The nobles and rulers were taking advantage of those who were in a hard place. They provided food and money but at a high expense.

Five Things Nehemiah did to handle a hard situation.

- 1. He allowed himself to feel the injustice.(Vs. 5)**
- 2. He did not overreact.**

So I called a great assembly against them- Nehemiah called for people to come together.

When you are dealing with hard situation remember:

- 1. A bad reaction can cost you greatly.**
- 2. Always go to the source of the conflict.**

Vs. 8

I said to them- Once Nehemiah assembled everyone, he explained the problem in a clear and concise manner.

Five Things Nehemiah did to handle a hard situation.

- 1. He allowed himself to feel the injustice.(Vs. 5)**
- 2. He did not overreact.**
- 3. He responded in a clear and concise manner.**

Vs.9-11

Restore now to them- Nehemiah didn't ask the nobles and ruler to feel bad. He tells them to restore the things that they have taken.

Vs. 12

We will restore it- Nehemiah had to deal with a hard situation. The result of his approach was that the nobles and ruler restored everything.

Five Things Nehemiah did to handle a hard situation.

- 1. He allowed himself to feel the injustice.(Vs. 5)**
- 2. He did not overreact.**
- 3. He responded in a clear and concise manner.**
- 4. He made the most of every teaching or learning moment.**

Vs. 13

Five Things Nehemiah did to handle a hard situation.

- 1. He allowed himself to feel the injustice.(Vs. 5)**
- 2. He did not overreact.**
- 3. He responded in a clear and concise manner.**
- 4. He made the most of every teaching or learning moment.**
- 5. He left a means of accountability.**



Heart Check: Don't develop a hard heart.

Neh. 5:1-13

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: The best way to avoid having a hard heart is lovingly deal with conflict.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. How do you think Nehemiah felt when he found out people were being taken advantage of?
2. Have you ever been taken advantage of? How did it make you feel?
3. Do you think it was hard for Nehemiah not to react in his flesh when dealing with those who were responsible?
4. How can you apply this block of scripture to your daily life?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.

Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

DATE: August 26th, 2018

Bible Story: Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet (John 13:12-17)

1. Jesus came not only to save us, but to show us how to live. He taught us that the first will be last and the last will be first. He told us that anything you do unto the least of these, you do unto God. What do you think these things mean?
2. One of the greatest stories of Jesus' teaching on servant leadership is the washing of the disciples' feet. What do Jesus' actions teach us about how we should treat and lead others?
3. Jesus shows us that we don't have to be the president or the CEO of a major company to be a leader. What are some differences in what the world considers a leader and what the Bible teaches us about leaders?

Memory Verse: "Be good to me, your servant, so that I may live to obey your word. Open my eyes so that I can see all of the wonderful things in your teachings." (Psalm 119:17-18)

