

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### A Passion for Justice

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor  
June 7, 2020



#### How do we lean into injustice?

Nehemiah 5:1-5 About this time some of the men and their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews. <sup>2</sup> They were saying, “We have such large families. We need more food to survive.” <sup>3</sup> Others said, “We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes to get food during the famine.” <sup>4</sup> And others said, “We have had to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay our taxes. <sup>5</sup> We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just to get enough money to live. We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields and vineyards are already mortgaged to others.”

- **Acknowledge injustice.**

Nehemiah 5:6-9 When I heard their complaints, I was very angry. <sup>7</sup> After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, “You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!” Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem. <sup>8</sup> At the meeting I said to them, “We are doing all we can to redeem our Jewish relatives who have had to sell themselves to pagan foreigners, but you are selling them back into slavery again. How often must we redeem them?” And they had nothing to say in their defense. <sup>9</sup> Then I pressed further, “What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations?”

- **Accept personal responsibility.**

Nehemiah 5:10 I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest.

- **Accelerate restitution and reconciliation.**

Nehemiah 5:11-12 You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.” <sup>12</sup> They replied, “We will give back everything and demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say.”

Nehemiah 5:15 (NLT) “But because I feared God, I did not act that way.”

- **Activated by God's love.**

Nehemiah 5:12-13 “Then I called the priests and made the nobles and officials swear to do what they had promised. <sup>13</sup> I shook out the folds of my robe and said, ‘If you fail to keep your promise, may God shake you like this from your homes and from your property!’ The whole assembly responded, ‘Amen,’ and they praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.”

Micah 6:8 (NIV) “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 (AMP) [God] made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God [that is, we would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness].

**Big Idea: Be activated by God's love and advocate for justice.**

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service is from the New Living Translation (NLT), the New International Version (NIV) and the Amplified Bible (AMP)*



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**A Passion for Justice  
#4 of 6 - June 7, 2020**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What has been your experience with racial injustice? How has your background influenced your view of racial injustice?

3) Read Nehemiah 5:1-5. Describe the situation in your own words. What is the heart of the problem? Reference Ex. 22:22-27 and Acts 4:32-35.

4) Read Nehemiah 5:6-9. How does Nehemiah respond to the injustice he sees? What does it look like for us to acknowledge injustice? How can we apply this as we consider the issue of racial injustice?

5) Read Nehemiah 5:10. How does Nehemiah take personal responsibility for the injustice? In what ways do you need to take personal responsibility for the challenges surrounding race relations? What do you need to confess to the Lord and your IC today?

6) Read Nehemiah 5:11-15 and Micah 6-8. In what ways does Nehemiah pursue restitution and reconciliation? What steps do we need to take today in light of what the Bible teaches in this regard?

7) Read Nehemiah 5:12-13. How does this symbolic gesture foreshadow what Jesus would do on the cross? Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does this illustrate God's justice and mercy?

8) Why is it important to see heart change in order to see lasting systemic change? In what ways is God asking you to respond to this message? What steps can you take today to be activated by God's love to pursue justice?



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