

Write down what each of the other passages has to say about handling conflict:

As you look at all these passages today what would you say is God's hope when it comes to handling conflict?

In what relationship are you currently facing conflict? How can you apply these passages to help you in your conflicts?

*Thank God today that the Bible is practical. Talk to Him about the conflict you are experiencing. Ask God to guide you to a place where you will be more concerned about being godly than being right! Pray that God will soften the other person's heart as well and that there will be a peaceful closure to that conflict.*

## Friday

Please read Psalm 16. At first glance it may seem as though passage has nothing to do with our study in Nehemiah! Think of this, though – the leaders in Nehemiah were essentially struggling with greed. Their desire for more ended in oppression of their own brothers.

Write down three ways this Psalm is an antidote to the desire for more:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How does this Psalm speak to the area of your life where your struggling with a desire for more? More money, more relationships, more recognition, more things – whatever it may be.

*Thank God today that He wants the best for you and that He is with you each step of the way. Talk to Him about the area of your life where you're struggling with a desire for more. As you close in prayer, pray this Psalm back to God and ask Him to help you grow in faith to believe that it is true!*

## Saturday

*Please be sure you've finished the devotions and know this week's Bible verse. Please pray for this weekend's services. Pray that God will grow our church in faith and people! Pray that our light will shine bright in this community and that light will point our community to Jesus.*

## Prayer Updates

### Hospitalized & Surgeries this past week...

Doreen Bartels – testing  
Elaine Pryor – knee surgery  
Lucille Bonds – fractured neck  
Shirley Ellis – testing

Dorothy Arola – testing  
Louise Barton – knee surgery  
Ralph Bingham – knee replacement surgery  
Tamara Routley – kidney and liver failure, also a stomach infection, very serious

**Recent hospitalizations/surgeries:** Alison Olson, Bill Bonds, Daisy Lew, Jerry Zamzow, Leona Sweeney, Norma Anderline

**Hospice care:** JD Jacobsen

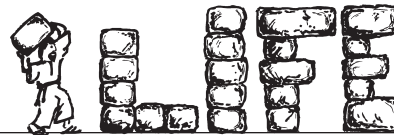
Keep close in prayer Lee, Ryan and Kaylee Williams, and all of their extended family, as we come together Sunday, February 10 at 2pm to honor and celebrate the life of

**Vereda Williams**, dearly loved by our TLC family.

Please call 465-3395 so we can provide pastoral and prayer support for you.



## REBUILDING MY



PART 4:

## Rebuilding My Integrity

February 9 & 10, 2008 • René Schlaepfer

How do I stop spiritual compromise in my life? How do I recover my integrity?

Nehemiah 5:1-13

### The Problem: Five Complaints in Nehemiah 5

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 1-3)

“Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their Jewish brothers. Some were saying, ‘We and our sons and daughters are numerous. In order for us to eat and stay alive **we must get grain**. We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain **during the famine**.’”

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 3)

“We are **mortgaging** our fields, our vineyards and our homes. . .”

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 4)

“Still others were saying, ‘We’ve had to **borrow** money. . .’”

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 4,5)

“... to pay the king's **taxes** on our fields and vineyards.”

5. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5)

“Although we are the same flesh and blood as our countrymen, and though our sons are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to **slavery**. Some of our daughters have already been **enslaved** but we are powerless because our fields and vineyards belong to others.”

### The principle being violated:

“If one of your countrymen becomes **poor** and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. **Do not take interest** of any kind from him, but fear your God. . .” *Leviticus 25:35-36*

## How Do I Rebuild Integrity?

### 1. Take \_\_\_\_\_

“When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was **very angry**.” *Nehemiah 5:6*

### 2. Take \_\_\_\_\_

“When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. **I pondered them in my mind** and then accused the nobles and officials.” *Nehemiah 5:6,7a*

I must regularly ask myself questions like:

- Am I profiting financially to someone else’s injury?
- Am I excusing some sin as the lesser of two evils?
- Am I compromising with my culture?

“So I called a great assembly against them. And I said to them, ‘According to our ability we have bought back our Jewish brothers who were sold to the nations. Now will you sell your own brothers to them again? Or sell them back to us?’ Then they were silent and found nothing to say.” *Nehemiah 5:8 (NKJV)*

### 3. Take \_\_\_\_\_

- Consider \_\_\_\_\_

“Then I said, ‘What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?’” *Nehemiah 5:9 (NKJV)*

- Design \_\_\_\_\_ action steps

“I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury! **Restore now to them, even this day**, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them.” *Nehemiah 5:10,11 (NKJV)*

- Make \_\_\_\_\_

“So they said, **We will** restore it, and will require nothing from them; **we will** do as you say.” *Nehemiah 5:12*

### 4. Take \_\_\_\_\_

“Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, ‘In this way may God shake out of his house and possessions every man who does not keep this promise. So may such a man be shaken out and emptied!’ **At this the whole assembly said, ‘Amen,’ and praised the LORD.** And the people did as they had promised.” *Nehemiah 5:12b-13*

# Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible readings based on this week’s message

## Monday

Please read Nehemiah 5:1-13. What stood out to you most in last weekend’s sermon and why?

As you read this passage in what ways does it sound contemporary?

Why do you think Nehemiah included this in his journal? How does it challenge you?

*Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible. Thank Him for His love for you and His desire to see you grow in your relationship with Him. Pray that as you study the Bible this week your heart will be soft to God’s leading and any changes He would have you make.*

## Tuesday

Please reread Nehemiah 5:1-13, and also read Psalm 51. Look at the steps to repentance we discussed this weekend. How do you see them reflected in Psalm 51?

Go through these steps today: First, pray for a passion for purity. Ask God to help you take integrity seriously. Second, take a moral inventory. Ask God to search your heart and point out any sinful way in you. Third, devise a plan for immediate action. What practical, immediate steps can you take – today – to help you stop compromising? And fourth, find a way to make your commitment public to someone or some group.

*Thank God today for His love for you and His concern for every area of your life!*

## Wednesday

Please reread Nehemiah 5:1-13, and also read Matthew 5:13-16. In what way were the people compromising in the Nehemiah passage? How about the church of Laodicea?

What does the Matthew passage say about compromise and the importance of being distinct in the world?

As you look at compromise in these passages and compromises you’ve made in the past, how would you describe the road to compromise?

*As you go to prayer this morning talk honestly to God about areas of compromise in your own life. In what area do you see yourself on that road? Ask God to point you to area(s) of your life that do not reflect His way for you. Ask Him for courage to look honestly at your life and then make course corrections. Pray that your heart will grow sensitive to choices you make that reflect compromise and not God’s best.*

## Thursday

Please reread Nehemiah 5:1-13. Another thing we see Nehemiah doing in this passage is resolving conflict. How does he handle the conflict?

continued 



Memory Verse

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”  
*Psalm 139:23-24*