

Nehemiah 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury.

Analysis

I likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury.

This verse within Nehemiah 5 addresses themes of justice, integrity, selfless leadership, economic reform. Internal crisis threatens to destroy what external opposition could not—economic exploitation requiring bold reforming leadership. The Hebrew palal (פָּלַל) for prayer indicates intercession and petition, emphasizing dependence on God. This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

Historical Context

Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The 52-day wall completion represents remarkable achievement given opposition and limited resources. Excavations have confirmed portions of Nehemiah's wall and various gates mentioned in the text. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture,

temple worship, and covenant obedience. This established patterns persisting through the Second Temple period into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does this passage teach about prayer's role in discerning and accomplishing God's will?
2. How can you develop more sustained, biblically-grounded prayer practices in your daily routine?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| וְגַם | אֲנִי | אֲחִי | וְנָעָרַי | נֹשִׁים | בָּתֵּי |
| H1571 | H589 | | | | H0 |
| | | I likewise and my brethren | and my servants | might exact | |
| | | H251 | H5288 | H5383 | |
| כֶּסֶף | וְדָגִים | נִעְזְבָה | וְנָא | אֶת | הַמִּשָּׁא |
| | | | H4994 | H853 | H2088 |
| of them money | and corn | I pray you let us leave off | | this usury | |
| H3701 | H1715 | H5800 | | H4855 | |

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