

Arise & Build, #8
CHANGE YOUR HEART: LOVE GOD; NOT MONEY

November 4–5, 2023 // Sermon Study Guide // Pastor Mark Henry D.D.

Text: Nehemiah 5

Truth Points: What truth was covered this weekend in the message?

1. Read Nehemiah 5. Who loved money more than God, more than the nation, more than their fellow brothers? How can we identify the idol of greed?

2. What four things did the people cry about? Do we see greed today? Does greed threaten national security today? Does greed threaten the work of God today?

3. How do these three verses help shape a theology for money:
 - Matthew 6:24 (NASB95) — “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”
 - Colossians 3:5 (NASB95) — “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.”
 - 1 Timothy 6:10–12 (NASB95) — “For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith.”

4. Was Nehemiah’s anger righteous or unrighteous (v 6)? How do we know the difference? What are three or four things that should make Christians angry?

5. Who does Nehemiah think he is rebuking the greedy people (vv7–12)? What do we learn about leadership and action from this man?

6. How does the visual illustration help people embrace the gravity of the situation (v 13)? Why would this be a daily reminder?

7. Every person follows someone: consciously or unconsciously. Why should we follow Nehemiah's example?

8. Nehemiah's prayer in verse 19 is powerful. How does it reveal his heart? His view of God? His understanding of reality?

Reflection Points: How does God want me to think, feel, act, and speak because of this truth?

1. Has my greed stopped the work of God? Or burdened the children of God in a greater way? How do I confront my greed? How do I tear down this idol?

2. Is my anger always self-centered? When was the last time I was angry for a righteous reason? Do I have a leadership role that requires me to act in confronting a sin?

3. Do I have the faith expressed in verse 19, "God remember me for the good I have done for your people"? Have I done them good? Do I have a reward coming from God? Or do I want my rewards from men?

Action Points: What am I going to do this week because of this truth?

1. **Read Revelation 20–22** in preparation for next weekend.
2. **Reflect** on Nehemiah 5 every day this week.
3. **Memorize: Nehemiah 5:19**, "Remember me, O my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people." (NASB95)
4. **Ask** yourself three questions every day this week:
 - Has the idol of greed gripped my soul?
 - Is my greed impeding the work of God?
 - Will I act nobly in serving God today, without recognition, awaiting His reward?
5. **Share** with another follower of Jesus what you are learning about God, the Bible, Jesus, etc. Help them follow Jesus better in 2023.