

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Nehemiah 5

Whose Agenda?

Getting Started

What does it mean when we talk about someone having an agenda?

Digging In

1. **Read Neh 1:1-5.** Describe the problems the people were experiencing. See how many you can find.
2. How would these problems have hindered the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem?
3. **Read vs. 6-11.** What was Nehemiah's initial response when he heard of the people's *outcry*?
4. How did he demonstrate maturity in handling the problem? (v. 7a; see also Proverbs 16:32 and 29:11)
5. How did Nehemiah deal with the problem?
6. **Read vs. 12-13.** How did the people respond?
7. **Read vs. 14-19.** In what ways was Nehemiah himself an example of selflessness?
8. How did this demonstrate a commitment to God's agenda rather than his own?



Getting Personal

- Write a paraphrase of Matthew 6:33.
- In practical terms, what does it look like to *seek first the kingdom of God*?
- What does it mean to seek *his righteousness*?
- Generally speaking, what are some ways that we as Christians can put God's kingdom – God's agenda – first in our lives?
- What is God saying to you personally through Neh 5 and Matthew 6:33?
- How can you apply Matt 6:33 to your life?