

## Discussion Questions & Quotes For May 12 thru 18, 2024

—“We are facing a time in our culture when all of God's people need to keep their eyes and their Bibles wide open. We must ask God for discernment as never before.” —**David Jeremiah**

—“Typically the average person doesn't realize the tremendous pressures and testings that people experience day after day in places of leadership. Leaders are often blamed for things they didn't do and criticized for things they tried to do. They are often misquoted and misunderstood and rarely given the opportunity to set the record straight. If they act quickly, they're considered reckless; if they bide their time, they're cowardly and unconcerned.” —**Warren W. Wiersbe**

—“An anonymous wit has defined gossip as news you have to hurry and tell somebody else before you find out it isn't true!”

—**Warren W. Wiersbe**

—“Righteous indignation relates to something that is offending against God's glory, is in denial of God's law, and is harmful for other people.”

—**Alistair Begg**

—“Everything that God brings into our life is directed to one purpose: that we might be conformed to the image of Christ.” —**Erwin Lutzer**

—“As faithful followers of the Lord in a culture where the majority of people have an un-biblical world view, we should be alert and aware that the enemy is watching for every opportunity to deceive, distract, divide, and defeat us. His strategies are subtle and shrewd. His temptations are clever and creative. One of his most effective weapons that catches us off-guard are the words we hear and repeat without realizing that we're gossiping. Ephesians 4:29 reminds us that we watch what we say and speak words filled with truth, love, and grace!” —**GAD**

—“God always has and always will look for men and women who say to Him, 'I trust you so much, I'm all in. I want Your way not mine. I am willing to live by faith!'" —**Chip Ingram**

—“We have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for the day. Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. Our attitude is everything.” —**Chuck Swindoll**

—“Unless God and His revealed Word is the overarching influencer and rationale over how our decisions are made as believers, then we can't expect God to be the overarching influencer in our culture.”

—**Tony Evans**

## —Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—Please carefully read Nehemiah 5:1–6:19 to prepare for this week's study & then pray that these studies will encourage & enlighten us in order to strengthen our church ministry.

—**1} Our theme thru-out this study has been “Nehemiah provides an extraordinary example of an ordinary person who stood out & stood up as a godly leader who stood against evil that was holding back the Jewish people from bringing glory to God.”** In some ways, Nehemiah could be seen as an Old Testament portrait of Christ. He gave up the privilege & prestige of living in the King's palace to go and live in a place that was ravaged by destruction. His role as the king's cupbearer gave him many advantages that he forfeited when he chose to go to help build the walls in Jerusalem. His motives for going were purely for God's glory. On a personal level, what lessons can we learn from Nehemiah's example? Taking note of what Nehemiah 5:14–19 says about his choice to refuse the “governor's expense account,” what does that teach us about Nehemiah's integrity & character?

—**2—** Nehemiah 6 describes the continued attacks used by the enemies & 6:6–9 explain the use of slander & gossip to try to frighten Nehemiah. Warren Wiersbe writes about this: “Statements like “it's been reported” and “they say” have caused trouble in many local churches and other ministries. In every organization, there are gossip-mongers, hovering like vultures, just waiting for tidbits of slander that they can chew, swallow, and then regurgitate.” How is gossip a powerful & perverted weapon that fools or deceives us into getting involved? When does “sharing a concern or a prayer request” with someone cross the line into gossip? How can we avoid it? How can we stop it from happening?

—**3—** In Nehemiah 5:1–13, we have an example of Nehemiah dealing with sin within the Jewish community in a bold manner. We can learn a lot about holding one another accountable from this section. Please notice how the people reacted to Nehemiah's exhortation in 5:12–13. What does this teach us about the importance of church discipline?

—**4—** Nehemiah was a prayer-warrior who (1) **practiced discipline**, (2) **prioritized his devotion to the Lord**, & (3) **pursued discernment in his decision-making**. Based on his example, what are some specific steps we can take to **increase our trust in the Lord, improve our testimony as faithful followers of Christ, & intensify our thirst for righteousness that would give greater glory to God?**