



- The problem is that many poor people in Jerusalem were struggling because of high taxes, famine, and having to borrow money.
- Some rich people were charging very high interest and taking their lands and homes.
- The richer Jews were exploiting & taking advantage of the poor.
- They took their Jewish brother's children as slaves.
- Heavy interest that the poorer class had no hope to get out from under this burden of debt

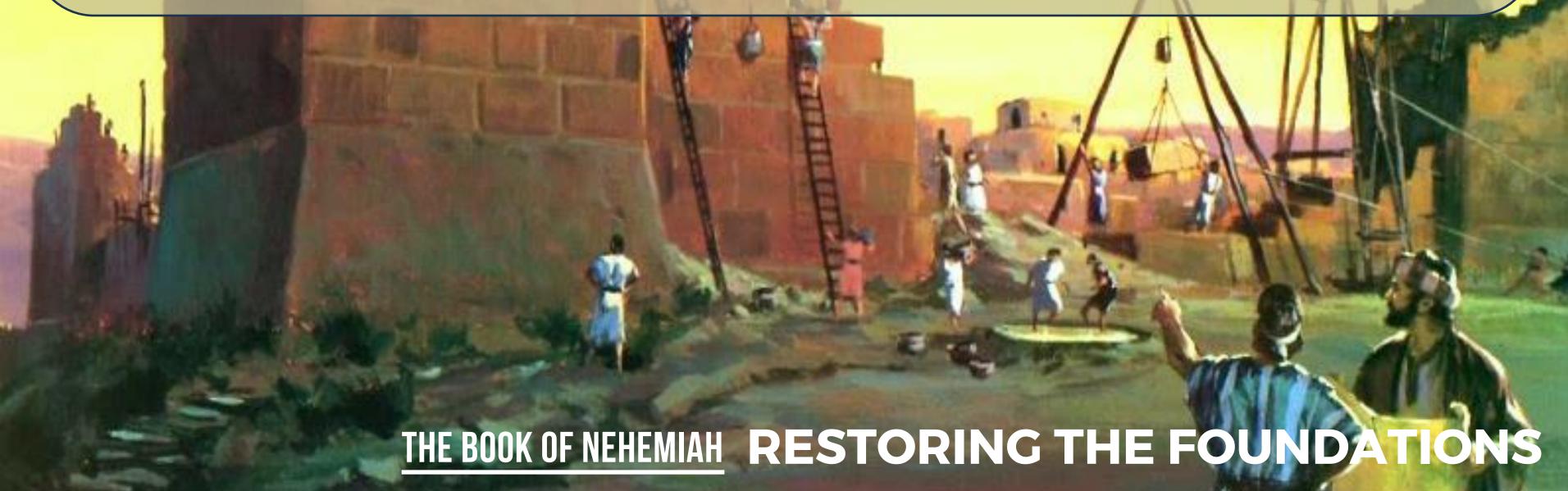
#### WHAT SHOULD THE RICHER CLASS HAVE DONE?

Deuteronomy 23:19 "Do not charge a fellow Israelite interest."

How does that apply to us?

- We must have a correct viewpoint about money
- Proverbs 3:27.. "Do not withhold good... when it is in your power to help them."
- See also Acts 20:35 and Proverbs 19:17)



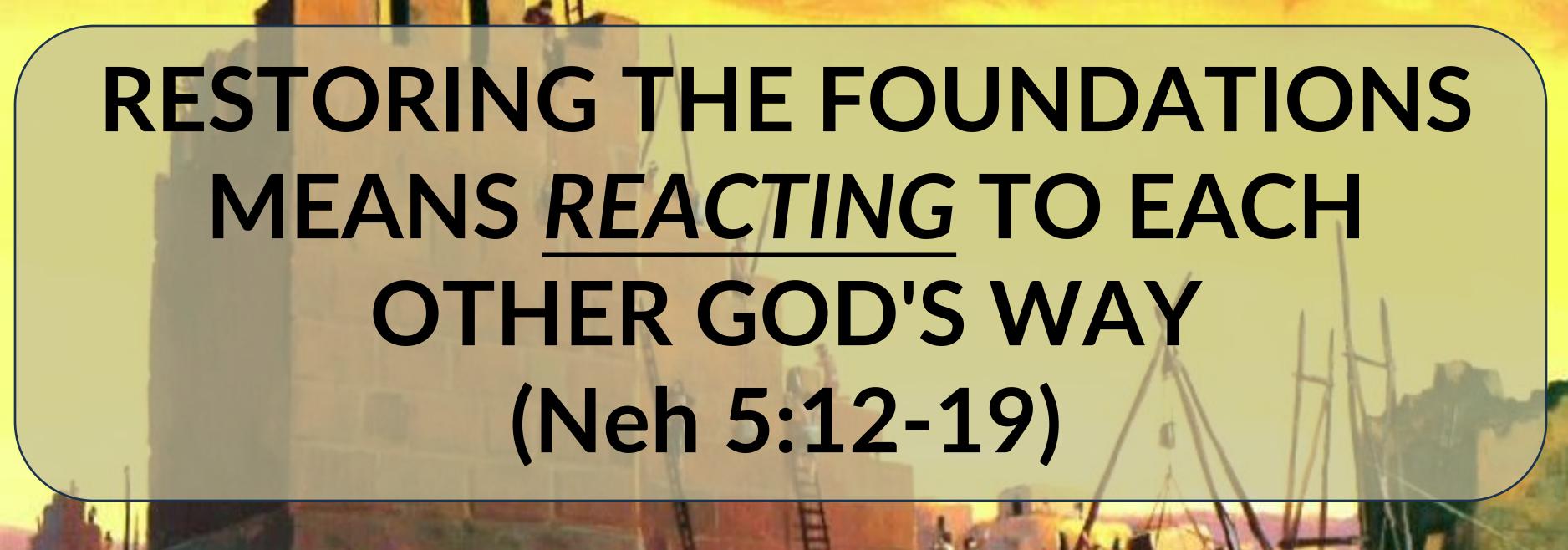


- Nehemiah gets angry but takes action in a godly, righteous way.
- He calls the rich people together and tells them to stop charging interest and give back what they've taken. (remember Zacchaeus Luke 19)
- He encourages fairness, compassion, and helping those in need.
- Leadership Lessons All of Life

## Leadership Lessons All of Life: Restoring the Foundations of Leadership

- A good leader cannot and does not ignore sin
- A good leader challenges his people to do better (verse 8)
- A good leader challenges his people to restoration –
  see 1 Tim 3:16=

- Nehemiah knew words alone were not enough a call to specific & achievable action.
- John 13:17 "blessed if you do them"
- SMART GOALS –
  Specific
  Measurable
  Achievable
  Realistic
  Timed





# Example of Generosity (Nehemiah 5:14-19)

- Nehemiah didn't take extra food or money from the people, even though he was the leader.
- He shared what he had and led by **EXAMPLE NOT ENTITLEMENT**



✓ Because Nehemiah feared God he sacrificed his personal rights

Phil 2:4 "not looking to your own interests"

- ✓ Because Nehemiah feared God he sacrificed his time and energy
- ✓ Because Nehemiah feared God he sacrificed his own money 2 Samuel 24:24 example of David

## **CONCLUSION: SO WHAT?**

Some questions to consider for our own lives

- 1. How can we apply the principle of listening and responding in our own communities and relationships so we can help Gods way?
- 2. How can we identify and address injustices within our own communities?

#### **CONCLUSION: SO WHAT?**

Some questions to consider for our own lives

3. What role can you play as an individual, to support the work we do as New Life and alongside others in promoting social justice?

4. What can you do to foster greater unity and co-operation within our church and community?

### **CONCLUSION: SO WHAT?**

Some questions to consider for our own lives

5. What is the importance of personal responsibility and accountability in building a just society? How can we cultivate a sense of personal responsibility within ourselves and our communities?