

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 5 14-19



I know that the Lord will bring justice to the oppressed
and maintain the cause of the needy.
Psalm 140:12

Praising:

We have no mission but to serve,
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating Word.

Reading:

Nehemiah 5:14-19
Nehemiah's approach to finance

Following the Jews' new financial policy, Nehemiah outlines the approach he adopts himself over the next twelve years. Although never actually appointed as governor of a province, it seems generally accepted that Nehemiah is formally recognised for his key role in the restoration project. It looks likely that a food allowance is one of the entitlements offered to Nehemiah. Whereas the officials before him had made heavy demands on the

people and levied charges, Nehemiah's own spiritual conscience will not allow him to follow suit. By describing how many people he welcomes to his table, Nehemiah is portraying himself now as a man of considerable means. Yet because of the heavy demands being made on the building workers, Nehemiah makes no claim on his rightful share of the community pot. It is a sacrifice he offers up to God.

Listening:

Praying:

We pray Lord for a spirit of Christian generosity

- to avoid being a financial drain on others if we can possibly help it
- to be hospitable and open-hearted whoever we meet, whatever their situation
- to take pleasure in our sacrifices, as though we are making them directly to God

Father: I think of those who have been generous to me and who have shown me Christ's love. Make me brave to be generous to others, even when the means to do so seems missing. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 19 September 2016