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## I. The Complaint – the powerless [1-5]

- A. Problems – 4 problems [1]
- B. Problem 1 – The people who owned no land and who needed food [2]
- C. Problem 2 – The landowners who had mortgaged their property in order to buy food [3]
- D. Problem 3 – The people who had to borrow money to pay for high taxes [4]
- E. Problem 4 – The wealthy Jews who were exploiting their own people by loaning money and taking their lands and their children as collateral [5]

## II. The Charge – the powerful [6-11]

- A. Righteous anger [6]
- B. Private consultation [7]
- C. Public confrontation [8]
- D. Perspective instillation [8]
- E. Calling for repentance [10-11]

## III. The Correction – the promise [12-13]

- A. Commitment with people [12]

- B. Commitment with God [12-13]

- C. Can we dare to commit?

## IV. The Conduct – Nehemiah [14-19]

- A. He did not abuse his power [14-15]
- B. He was faithful to His calling [16]
- C. He was generous to others around him [17-18]
- D. He was living for God's glory [19]

-Nehemiah 5:15

## V. Comments – Biblical justice

-Psalm 103:6-7

1. This is about God's act on the Israelites in exodus who are oppressed in Egypt.
  - The oppressed are in exile because of sin
  - Humanity is in exile to see the need to be rescued because of their sins [not specific sins]
2. God saves the oppressed Israelites and judges the Egyptian oppressors. His justice act was to picture the Gospel – mercy to the oppressed and justice to the oppressors.
3. The command for justice was often to the Israelites who became oppressors to their own people after they have been freed from their oppressions – this was call for repentance.
4. His justice was for the oppressed Israelites to see the need for a rescuer [in Egypt] and the oppressing Israelites to see the need for repenting of their sins of oppressing others [after the return from exile/Nehemiah 5]
5. The goal of His justice was for us to see Jesus so that we can be redeemed in Him, not for equality though it resulted in equality.

6. If the goal is mere equality, neither the oppressed nor the oppressors will repent of their sins, and therefore, will fail to be redeemed in Christ, which is the goal of Biblical justice.

7. If we have been saved, we would repent of our sins of injustice [to do justice] and become the people of mercy [to love kindness], as we live to picture and glorify [humbly walk with your God].

-Micah 6:8