

## Getting Practical:

1. Discuss the various news and stories that you have heard about the tragic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Who is being harmed? What is the short term damage? ...the long term damage?

Americans have reacted to the Gulf Oil Disaster in different ways. How should a believer who “fears the Lord” respond in a way that might be different from the reactions of those who do not fear the Lord?

2. How can those who “fear the Lord” best respond to the other social tragedies that we are experiencing in our community. Does Nehemiah’s courage have anything to teach us in how we relate to...?

- People who are out of work
- People who have their homes in foreclosure
- People who are struggling in abusive relationships
- People who are aliens (immigrants) living in our strange culture

What acts of “courageous rehab” could EGM carry out for such people?

## Don't Miss

- Ask the Spirit to open your heart to the opportunities to recreate this week.

## Nehemiah 5 “Courageous Rehab”



EverGreen  
Ministries  
July 4, 2010

### message notes:

- Great Outcry
- Great Courage
- Great “Fear”

## **Explore the Story, Discover Your Life** **A Study for Small Groups and Individuals**

### **Remembering – “Courageous Rehab”**

- Look at your message notes. What part of the message made you wonder, want to know more, held particular meaning for your life, or just caught your attention?
- Share an experience that you had when you were very afraid.
- The “fear of the Lord” is often translated “reverence for the Lord” or “awe of the Lord”. In your opinion, does your frightening experience have anything in common with the “fear of the Lord”?

### **Being Shaped by the Text: Nehemiah 5**

Nehemiah has embarked on a bold venture, to restore the walls and the security of Jerusalem in the face of hostility, scarce resources, and disunity.

- Read Nehemiah 5:1-5: The Hebrew word for the “great outcry” of the people is the same as the word for “thunder.” Why were the people thundering their complaints? What did this have to do with rehabbing the walls of Jerusalem?
- If you were Nehemiah, how would you have responded to their complaints?
- Read Nehemiah 5:6-8: Why was Nehemiah so angry with the nobles and officials? Why do you suppose the nobles and officials had nothing to say to him? Read Leviticus 25:39-42 and Ezekiel 22:12-13. How do these passages help to explain Nehemiah’s anger?
- Read Nehemiah 5:9-13: What did Nehemiah do to right the injustices that he had observed? What does “the fear of God” have to do with Nehemiah’s decisions? How do you suppose Nehemiah’s actions were seen by the poor people who had complained? How do you suppose his actions were received by the nobles and officials? How about those who were just observing this conflict, how did these actions affect them?
- Read Nehemiah 5:14-19: What does Nehemiah himself

do in order to avoid any hint of injustice or oppressing the poor? What does “the fear of God” have to do with Nehemiah’s actions? (See also Nehemiah 1:11 and 2:2.)

### **Do You Accept the Challenge?**

- In your church or family this past year, what financial crisis, party politics or other morale problems may have hindered you from serving God and those around you? Do you see any parallels to the experience of Nehemiah in Jerusalem?
- In how we deal with money and property, do we deal with fellow Christians any differently than we deal with non-Christians? Do we deal with others any differently than non-Christians deal with others in terms of money and property?
- Have you, or someone you know, ever voluntarily undergone personal sacrifice in order to deal mercifully or righteously with someone in need? When have your beliefs really cost you something? Did “the fear of the Lord” have anything to do with that?

### **Read Matthew 15:1-9:**

- What similarities can you find between Jesus’ words to the Pharisees and Nehemiah’s words to the nobles and officials of his day?
- When Jesus quotes Isaiah in verses 8-9, he is describing people whose hearts are “far from God.” Does this have any relationship to the “fear of God” that was Nehemiah’s concern?
- Are there certain times in your day, in your week, or in your life, when your heart is far from God?
- List some things that we can do to assure that our hearts do not stray far from God.
- Will EverGreen Ministries be a people that choose to live in the comfort and security that the world offers, or will we count the cost, fear the Lord, and trust God to provide for His mission?

**EXPLORE!**