

Living Water Fellowship

11th Sunday after Pentecost

8th August 2021

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION SING TO JESUS (ROBBIE SEAY BAND) [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=WBRCGMNLFi0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBRCGMNLFi0)

SONG: Dwell in Your House <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHHUxsLy9Iq>

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

PSALM 56: *SELECTED VERSES* READ RESPONSIVELY

Be merciful to me, my God,
for my enemies are in hot pursuit;
all day long they press their attack.

**But when I am afraid,
I will put my trust in you.**

I trust in God, so why should I be afraid?
What can mere mortals do to me?

**My enemies will retreat
when I call to you for help.**

This I know: God is on my side!

I praise God for what he has promised;
yes, I praise the Lord for what he has
promised.

**I trust in God, so why should I be afraid?
What can mere mortals do to me?**

You have rescued me from death;
you have kept my feet from slipping.

**Now I can walk in your presence, O God,
in your life-giving light.**

All: This I know: God is on my side!

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Nehemiah 5:1-13

FAITH CHAT:

1. Of all the promises God has made to you, which one(s) do you remember regularly so that you live according to them?
2. How do those Scriptural promises shape your responses to challenges you face?

SONG: Be Unto Your Name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P7HW0IpvLU>

THE MESSAGE: ROAD TO RECOVERY: RENEW THE COVENANT

PRAYERS:

The Communion:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: The Goodness of God (Maranatha Music)

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† _____, (Name), † child of God, may your life in Christ
be renewed by your loving service among his people!
Amen.**

Announcements:

SONG: Blessed Assurance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDeiy9-t2GE>

SHOW HIS LOVE

NEHEMIAH 5:1-13

¹ About this time some of the men & their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews. ² They were saying, "We have such large families. We need more food to survive." ³ Others said, "We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, & homes to get food during the famine."

⁴ Others said, "We have had to borrow money on our fields & vineyards to pay our taxes. ⁵ We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, & our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just to get enough money to live. We have already sold some of our daughters, & we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields & vineyards are already mortgaged to others."

⁶ When I heard their complaints, I was very angry. ⁷ After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles & officials. I told them, "You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!" Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem.

⁸ At the meeting I said to them, "We are doing all we can to redeem our Jewish relatives who have had to sell themselves to pagan foreigners, but you are selling them back into slavery again. How often must we redeem them?" They had nothing to say in their defence.

⁹ Then I pressed further, "What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations? ¹⁰ I myself, as well as my brothers & my workers, have been lending the people money & grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest. ¹¹ You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, & homes to them this very day. Repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, & olive oil."

¹² They replied, "We will give back everything & demand nothing more from the people. We will do as you say." Then I called the priests & made the nobles & officials swear to do what they had promised. ¹³ I shook out the folds of my robe & said, "If you fail to keep your promise, may God shake you like this from your homes & from your property!" The whole assembly responded, "Amen," & they praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Nehemiah 5:1-13. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find most important in this text? Why?
2. How aware are you of the struggles of those who are financially less well-off than you are? What can we do to align our hearts to be actively concerned for people in need?
3. What was the relationship between the lenders & the borrowers? Should this have affected the business relationship? How does your identity in Christ affect your business dealings? How do we avoid viewing people as "opportunities" for gain?
4. Why are "enemies" among us & within us more difficult to deal with than enemies from the outside? How does discord among God's people interrupt God's work?
5. How does anger pose a threat to effective decision-making? How did Nehemiah guard himself against making a poor decision under the influence of anger (vs 7)? How did the actions of the nobles & officials imperil the rebuilding of Israel as a whole & not just the wall around the city? (vs 9)?
6. How did Nehemiah appeal to the nobles & officials? How did their actions go against God's redemptive plan & violate his covenant? How does the fear of God instill a sense of righteousness? How does public assembly improve accountability?
7. Take a minute to read the rest of Nehemiah 5...How did Nehemiah show genuine love for his people? How was Nehemiah's leadership different from the preceding governors? Why did Nehemiah act differently from them? What impact does that sort of leadership have on a group?
8. Love cares enough to confront others with their sin, even when it is awkward. How can we confront our friends or family with sin that we see in them? We can either be living in a way that leads others to sin or leads others to Christ. How can you best discover the consistency & integrity of your life & witness in your community?
9. Nehemiah demonstrates that loving God & others requires sacrificial generosity. How are you living that reality in a loving & transparent way so that others can learn from your witness & perhaps model your generous heart?
10. How did Nehemiah seek to reestablish servant leadership as he governed? Why does that type of leadership have such a powerful impact? How would you lead like Nehemiah if you had a role in Living Water's leadership?