**Messages Series: Building the Kingdom Together**

**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. October 23, 2016**

**Dealing With The Enemy Within**

Nehemiah 5:1-13

**Key Truth**: Nothing hinders a mission more than when people become **discouraged**.

1. God cares about **social** justice and so should the

 church.

2. The biggest problem the Church faces is not outside

 the walls but on the **inside**.

 A. We should become **angry** when God’s people

 willfully disobey God’s Word.

 B. God gave **guidance** on how Israel was to care for

 its people. **Lev. 25:35-43, Deut. 23:19-20**

 C. How we treat one another is a direct reflection of

 our **heart** toward God.

 D. How we treat one another will be a **witness** for

 the world to see.

 E. **Satan** rejoices when strife and disunity hinder the

 work of God.

**How Do We Rebuild the Spiritual Walls of The Church?**

1. We must take God’s Word **seriously**.

2. We must love **mercy** and do **justice**.

3. **Confront** disobedience regardless of the sacrifice

 involved.

4. As leaders, call the people to walk in the **fear** of God.

**Conclusion:** **Participate** in building the Kingdom.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read: Nehemiah 3:3-5. In order for the wall to be repaired it takes everyone participating. The nobles in Israel refused to help in the rebuilding. Are we surprised that they were the ones mistreating their own brothers and sisters? What does that say about their heart and attitude toward God?

2. How did Nehemiah respond when he heard how the Israelites were treating their fellow Jews? Is there a time when anger is permitted? Why or Why not?

3. Read Proverbs 30:7-9: Our lack of money or our abundance of money can have spiritual implications on our actions. How do we see this lived out in our church and community?

4. Nehemiah asked the people, (Neh. 5:9) “Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?” Why is the fear of God important?

5. Read Acts 5:1-11: What did Ananias and Sapphira do that caused this reaction by God? What do you think God was trying to teach the early church?

6. Read Acts 6:1-7: The early church was growing numerically but conflict was emerging that was endangering the unity. What was the issue and how did the Apostles address it? What was the result of them dealing with the issue?