

**HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM BEING OVERCOME BY THE ENEMY'S ATTACKS?**  
**PART 3: DEALING WITH THREATS FROM WITHIN**  
**Nehemiah 5:1-19**

- I. **IN DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS OK CRY OUT AMONG THE BODY ABOUT SO-CALLED BROTHERS WHO ARE PUBLICLY SINNING AGAINST YOU:** The people who were being sinned against cried out concerning their Jewish brothers' sinful usury and subsequent enslavement (1-5)
  
- II. **REALIZE GODLY LEADERSHIP WILL CONFRONT THESE SITUATIONS:** Nehemiah responds to their outcry by wisely contending with those nobles and rulers in sin (6-11)
  - A. **Nehemiah had a righteous anger** concerning their outcry (6)
  
  - B. **Nehemiah first wisely thought it over** before confronting the nobles and rulers (7a)
  
  - C. **Nehemiah contended with the nobles and rulers, wisely rebuking them** publicly in accordance with God's Word (7b-11)
    - 1. He first exposed the issue: Contrary to God's Word they were exacting usury upon their brethren (7a)
  
    - 2. He then held a great assembly against them, wisely confronting, identifying himself with what was right and then exposed their wrong (7b-11)
      - a) Nehemiah reveals while he was redeeming his brethren, these through usury were enslaving them; this was not good revealing a lack of fear of the Lord, also bringing the nation's reproach (8-9)
  
      - b) Nehemiah wisely calls upon them to leave of their usury and give back their property and interest that was exacted from them (10-11)
  
- III. **PRAISE GOD FOR THEIR RESPONSE:** They said they would obey, gave an oath, praised the Lord and did it (12-13)
  
- IV. **REMEMBER, DOING GOOD TO HIS PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU FEAR HIM IS A FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER GOOD:** Because Nehemiah feared the Lord, he did good and did not lay burdens or domineer the people, but instead was in a position to do even more good by confronting the brethren who were doing so (14-19)