**Small group notes, Sunday 11th June 2017**

**Kingdom Building Acts for Justice (Nehemiah 5:1-19)**

**Welcome**

* Are there any causes or issues that you are particularly passionate about - either on a global scale, or closer to home?

or…

* What are the things in life that make you feel most uncomfortable / angry?

**Worship**

Micah 6:8 - “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”…

Spend some time focusing on God and praising him for:

* His justice
* His mercy
* His desire that we walk with him each day

**Word - Kingdom Building Acts for Justice – Nehemiah 5**

**The Outcry (v1-5) – Do we hear it?**

* Food, finance, family (Biblical and contemporary examples)

**The Response (v6-13a) – Do we feel it?**

* Nehemiah’s – Anger, Reflection, Confrontation, Community action, Recognition of responsibility, Solution proposed, Call to covenant
* The wrongdoers – Recognition of wrong-doing, Promise of reparation and obedience, Praise
* Ours - ?

**The Example (v13b-19) – Do we do it?**

* The people’s – “… the people did as they had promised.”
* Nehemiah’s – Integrity, Devotion, Hospitality and generosity, Action
* Ours -?

**Possible questions for discussion (choose a few from below):**

1. Do you ever experience the “Just when you thought it was safe…” syndrome i.e. just when just as things seem to be going well, something comes along to throw a spanner in the works? To what extent is this to be expected as part of the “spiritual battle”?
2. Are you surprised that there was exploitation going on internally among the Jewish people in this passage? Why/why not?
3. Do you think that we listen effectively to the “outcries” in our society? Which are those that you hear loudest?
4. Which aspect of Nehemiah’s / the people’s response do you think was the most important? Why?
5. What was / is your response to the Tony Campolo and Brennan Manning quotations cited in the sermon?
6. Can you think of any particular helpful examples where God’s people have “done what they had promised”? Or any particularly harmful examples where they have not? What can we learn from these?
7. Words + actions = witness. Why is living the Christian life often not quite as simple as that?
8. Who do you look to as an inspiring example of Christian witness - someone who clearly “walks the walk” as well as “talking the talk”?
9. How are you using your gifts to help build God’s kingdom? What could you / we do to act for justice? Share any thoughts/ideas that came to you during the service or have been on your heart before/since…
10. What does it look like in practice “to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”?

**Prayer (focus on a few)**

* For our personal and collective response to the above
* For any particular organisations you mentioned at the start who are fighting the cause of the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised
* For the “Hope for Justice” organisation and those within our family who actively support their cause
* For Jacob Adib preparing and fund-raising for his year with UCCF “Relay”
* For the Miller family and their last few weeks of term before returning to England for a break in July
* For our young people and their remaining public exams
* For preparation and planning for both the church plant and NMBC
* For our newly elected government