

## BEYOND EXILE // CRAFTING CHARACTER

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Nehemiah 5

### LAST WEEK

1. We talked about setting priorities in a way that we are always ready to fight discouragement. How did that go? What changes did you make?

### INTRO

2. When you think of people in your life who have good character, which of their characteristics comes to mind when you think of them?

### WHAT DOES IT SAY?

3. One of the qualities that made Nehemiah a great leader was a healthy private life (i.e., between he and God). What is something you've seen from Nehemiah's life that reflects that? What can you implement in your own life?
4. Most often today, what our lives look like in public outweighs our private lives. How can we choose to live differently, leaning into the shaping God does in private?
5. "Gifting gets you a seat at the table, but character keeps you there." Why do you think this statement is so true? How have you seen this play out?
6. God gave us 2 ears and 1 mouth, and they are to be used proportionately. How can we use our ears in the lives our families, friends, co-workers, and neighbors?
7. **Read Romans 12:2.** Knowing what is "right" can seem vague at times. How can we keep ourselves from conforming to the general idea of "right"? Then, how do we renew our minds to God's idea of "right"?
8. **Read James 2:17-18.** What can we do as a group to put action behind our words as we allow God to craft our character?

### HOW CAN I OBEY?

9. Trials don't develop our character; they reveal what character is already there. Thinking about the trials in your own life, big and small, what can you do this week in your private life that will develop your character?

