

Rebuilding Despite Internal Trouble

Nehemiah 5:1-13

Now the men and their
wives raised a great outcry
against their fellow Jews.

– Nehemiah 5:1

Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.” – Nehemiah 5:2

Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.”
– Nehemiah 5:3

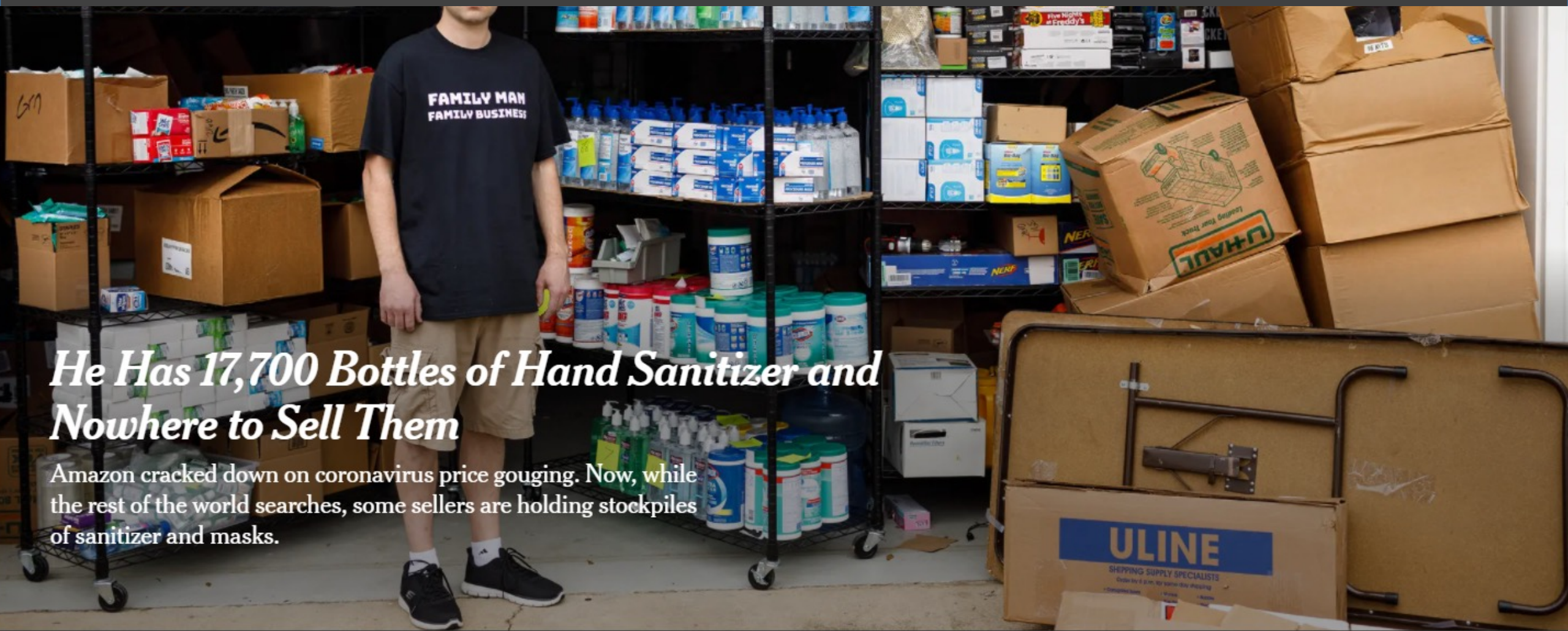
Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.”

– Nehemiah 5:4

Although we are of the **same flesh and blood** as our fellow Jews and though **our children are as good as theirs**, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to **slavery**. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.” –Nehemiah 5:5

When I heard their outcry
and these charges, I was
very angry. – Nehemiah 5:6

I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them – Nehemiah 5:7



He Has 17,700 Bottles of Hand Sanitizer and Nowhere to Sell Them

Amazon cracked down on coronavirus price gouging. Now, while the rest of the world searches, some sellers are holding stockpiles of sanitizer and masks.

Thanks for reading The Times.

COLLAPSE





“As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say. – Nehemiah 5:8

What you are doing is not right.
Shouldn't you **walk in the fear
of our God** to avoid the
reproach of our Gentile
enemies? – Nehemiah 5:9

Unfortunately, many of us presume that the world is the ultimate threat and that God's function is to offset it. How different this is from the biblical position that God is far scarier than the world When we assume that the world is the ultimate threat, we give it unwarranted power, for in truth, the world's threats are temporary. When we expect God to balance the stress of the world, we reduce him to the world's equal. – William Eisenhower

The remarkable thing about
fearing God is that when you fear
God, you fear nothing else,
whereas if you do not fear God,
you fear everything else.

- Oswald Chambers

Keep his mind on the inner life. He thinks his conversion is just something inside him... The great thing is to prevent him from doing anything. As long as he does not convert it into action, it does not matter how much he thinks... Let him do anything but act. No amount of piety in his imaginations and affections will harm us if we can keep them out of his will. The more often he feels without acting, the less he will ever be able to act. – CS Lewis, The Screw Tape Letters.

I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil. – Nehemiah 5:10-11

“We will give it back,” they said.

“And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.” – Nehemiah 5:12a

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. – Nehemiah 5:12b

I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!” – Nehemiah 5:13a

At this the whole assembly said,
“Amen,” and praised the LORD.
And the people did as they had
promised. – Nehemiah 5:13b

Did Noah like animals? Did Moses like camping? Did Ruth like gleaning? Did Daniel like living abroad? Did John the Baptist like confrontation? Did Paul like prison? Did Nehemiah like construction?

These people did not love their assignments. They feared the Lord. And those were the assignments He gave to them. That's the motivation – not the love for the thing, but the fear of the Lord. – Paige Brown

In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. – Eph 4:26-27