

Build & Repair

Nehemiah 3: 1-2, 3, 6,13,14,15,17, 22, 28

¹Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. ² The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them.

³ The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaaah.

⁶ The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.

¹³ The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Dung Gate. ¹⁴ The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Rekab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.

¹⁵ The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David.

¹⁷ Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district.

²² The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region.

²⁸ Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.

The repairs needed to be made... Repairs, repairs, repairs...., It always seem the House of God is in need of repairs. When you own a house or home, repairs are simply a normal part of what you can expect to do. A never-ending duty for the one who takes some pride in the house he or she lives in. Our Lord wants each of us to take pride in our home here, His house.

Illustration:

My house in Spokane – I lived there for a number of years and never painted the outside until it was about time to move. I also did other things during our time in that house,

- Insulating and weatherizing by Washington Water Power
- Landscaping, sprinklers, weed and feed, repaired walls, added closet space down stairs, etc.

It seemed as if all I did was repair the house, in one area or another, all the time. Here in Oregon, the concern is just as great, with so much water all the time. Yet, isn't that what life is all about, building and repairing, building and repairing, over and over. Not only in our homes, but in our lives.

So, even now within the church, someone is called by God to build, and when the time comes for needed repairs, God calls another to repair and/or rebuild. Nehemiah was the one called upon by God to rebuilt the wall, just as God calls many others to help support this effort. As we look at the 3rd chapter of Nehemiah, I want us to note something which is not directly spoken of, yet, told to us by the list of those who rebuilt on the wall together...

First - Eliashib, the High Priest

"Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel."

Eliashib, along with his brethren of priests, led the way in this group of rebuilders. He did not set back and tell them where to build, or, how he thought they should rebuild, He led the way. Just as Jesus did when He taught the disciples to fish for men. They were told to ***"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."***

As I read this story, it told me that Ministers, Church leaders, anyone who is held up before the church as a leader within a ministry of the church, are also called to show others the way. They need to be first and foremost in front in every good work.

I believe that the office of pastor, the office of lay leader, the position of lay people who serve the Lord in His church, are obligated to lead and teach others in what the Lord is calling His people to go. The way to actually live for Christ, not just speak of living for Him. To provide a good example for others to see and follow, by doing things for God's kingdom as the Lord calls us. By living by a solid, biblical doctrine as we care for those the Lord places in our lives.

Trust me, it requires hard labor, as all of us as leaders are called to share in that labor. If there is a danger in this for called leaders within the body, it is that we demonstrate our faith we say we have in God, so that we actually we walk after and accomplish the work of the Kingdom, that we are saying we will do. Action speaks louder than words.

In Nehemiah, the Priests repaired the ***"Sheep Gate"*** which was the gate where people would enter to bring their sacrifices unto God. That would definitely be, in our day, the house of worship, our church home. The Priests repaired this gate, since it dealt with their worship of God. However, there are many other parts to God's house others helped repair. What this tells us is that there is work for pastors, ministers, lay leaders, and everyone else within the walls of the local house of worship, for rebuilding, improving, the church His house. Be it physical labor, giving of our resources, and helping in a variety of other ways.

If you think God is calling on you, to tell you to tell someone else what to do, while you sit back and watch them do it, I would have to say you might be a little off on that. If He is telling you,

more than likely, He is calling you to help. The work of His kingdom is for everyone, including the High Priest.

Illustration:

A young man applied for a job at a supermarket. The manager said, "Yes, I'll give you a job. Sweep out the store." "But," said the young applicant, "I'm a college graduate." The manager quietly replied, "Oh, that's all right. I'll show you how."

We may think of ourselves more highly than we ought to at time, but God used everyone, at every level in life, to rebuild His house. Even if we feel that a particular job is beneath us, we are called to be obedient to His leading - not our own desires or social status.

Second - Lots of workers got involved...

² *The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them.*

³ *The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaaah.*

Then the list goes on and on, with rebuilding various parts of the Temple and the surrounding areas. As you read this chapter you begin to see that a great deal of people got involved in this task. The greater the undertaking, the more need there is for many people, many hands, to get the task completed.

So, it is simple to see that as they prepared for rebuilding the wall, (***rebuilding His house***) there a place for a vast number of people to work on it. Each working with his or her own ability, each doing some portion of the work - whether it was a small task, a larger task, or whatever task, often some doing more work than others, we are all called according to his or her ability! God calls all of us, and coordinates our efforts, to accomplish the same rebuilding task, with a varied gifts within the body of Christ. He knows that not everyone of us can, or will, do the same thing, or, have the same abilities. So, there are many parts working together.

He knows that we may not have the same stamina, or endurance, yet, He calls all of us to do our part, willingly and cheerfully. Jesus told us, ***"Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."*** JOH 5:17

Jesus also reminds us, ***"As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."*** JOH 9:4 We only have so much time on this earth to accomplish that tasks we are called to do.

Thus, Paul speaking about the different parts of the body says,

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." EPH 4:16

There is a task for each and every part of the body, that means each and every one of us. The truth is, when we don't do our part, the entire body suffers from our lack of fulfilling our responsibility. Nehemiah would have never been able to rebuild God's house and the city, if it weren't for the sheer numbers of workers God called to help him. Which brings us to the third point...

Third - Neighbor helping neighbor

As we read this story, we see that many people from various places around that area came to help rebuild the wall. The first to be mentioned were those from Jericho, they didn't even live in Jerusalem. Their concern was not one of personal gain, rather, one of public concern, for the welfare of their neighbors. The men of Jericho, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, to mention some of them.

There are times in life, when God calls others to step in and rebuild, reclaim, bring back justice and truth, when evil has destroyed the land. Perhaps in places like the Middle East, Africa, Lebanon, Japan and other areas of this world, are similar to this situation Nehemiah faced.

The important thing to know is that God call us, the body of Christ, to stand together and rebuilding, repairing, renew what needs to be rebuilt, when evil has torn down what was once great. There were even several rulers of neighboring countries, who were active in the rebuilding of this wall. Powerful people, leaders who felt bound by the proper use of what the Lord placed in their possession, to make certain that God's work is done. So, it includes everyone regardless of social or, economic status.

I believe this is a powerful illustration of what the Lord expects from all of us, as we go about doing His will, in a world which needs badly to be repaired. The kind of repairs needed will take a long time and will need to be done by a large contingent of His children. Despite what some may feel or think, we are not Islands unto ourselves. We are responsible for the welfare of all of His children, wherever they might live in this world. We are called to do what we can, with what He has given us. That is important! Do what we can, with what He has given us...

As we watch the rebuilding of this wall, we notice that Nehemiah was call to co-ordinate all that took place, what a job! He watches the effort of those working diligently, and made certain that the maximum productivity came from those who were working. Half of these servants were working to repair, while the other half stood guard, less the enemy attacks and tries to destroy the work. Man does that sound like our world today? Got to watch your back while you do the work of the kingdom. ***God is calling every one of us to rebuild!*** Each using his or her own ability, responsibility, and task given, so we can put God's house in order. The world needs the Lord's house to function, and function well.

Illustration:

An aspiring job applicant, called the CEO of a large firm and said, "You were at a party last Saturday night, and met a young man in a blue suit. The two of you talked for quite a while, and you told him that you were impressed with his knowledge and insight. You also said there might be a place on your staff for him, and told him to call your office this week."

"That's right," said the executive. "Well," said the young man, "I overheard the conversation, and if he hasn't called yet I'd like the job." To accomplish the work of the kingdom, we will need boldness and strength to go after the goals of rebuilding. We dare not just set back and hope it will be done, we must get up and do it.

If there is one thing we need to be for the Lord, it is to be assertive in our work for the Kingdom. The urgency to rebuild it is upon us, now. We need to be intentional about what we are doing. God is waiting for His people to come alive, and make the choose to rebuild, then, go get it done. Get it done!!!!

- What are we doing to help rebuild His church? Let's draw that down to us individually, what am I doing to help get it done? Are we talking about it, standing and watching, or are we doing our part of the rebuilding.
- What can we do? Many things, if you are willing to get involved... God will show us, if we are willing to do it...

The biggest question is,

What are we willing to do?

He knows what we can and can't do, what someone else can or can't do, or even what we did last years, or years ago. However, what are we doing now!

- Priest and leaders got busy and set the example
- The leaders rallied, realizing that it takes many workers to get the job done
- Together, they sought to get even though we don't live near, to help rebuild, correct and establish His house, the truth. The Lord needs us.... The world needs us....

What are we going to start doing?

(Don't look at me or other around us, what are we (as individuals) going to do?)

Closing Prayer