

Home Group Leader's Notes
Week of April 28, 2024

Sermon Series: Nehemiah – “The Good Hand of God”

Nehemiah chapter three

This is a usual chapter to study. Most of us either skip it or glance through it. However, Pastor Jerrod Mantonya will be sharing insights into what we learn from God's work.

YOU WERE DESIGNED WITH A ROLE IN MIND

The above statement is one of our core values. Many passages in the Bible clearly teach that every Christ-follower was designed to do good works (Ephesians 2:10) to build God's kingdom. What are some examples of good works that help us fulfill our mission?

LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

We learned in earlier chapters that God called Nehemiah to return to his homeland and restore the wall around the city of Jerusalem. After God gave him favor with the king, he had been given permission, provision, and passage. In this chapter, the reconstruction begins. Read through chapter three and consider the following questions.

What do you notice from the list the names or professions or identity of those who were working on the Jerusalem wall?

I have included the list for your convenience. Notice the occupations and identities of the people. I have highlighted a few below. Notice also that none of them are skilled in building walls. Rather, the focus was to use what abilities, energies, and strengths that God gave them.

Priests

The men of Jericho

Zakkur

Sons of Hassenaah

Meremoth, Hakkoz

Meshullam, Meshezabel, Zadok

Men of Tekoa – a neighboring area

But their nobles would not help ...

Joiada, Meshullam

Uzziel, a goldsmith

Hananiah, a perfume-maker

Rephaiah, a ruler of half-district of Jerusalem

Jedaiah

Hattush

Malkijah and Hasshub

Shallum, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem

Shallum's daughters

Hanun

Residents of Zanoah – neighboring area

Malkijah (son of Rekab), ruler of Beth Hakkerem

Shallun, ruler of district of Mizpah

Nehemiah, son of Asbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur
Levites under Rehum
Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah
Fellow Levites under Binnui, ruler of the other hal-district of Keilah
Ezer
Baruch
Meremoth
Benjamin and Hasshub in front of their house
Maaseiah, beside his house
Palal
Pedaiah
Temple servants
Men of Tekoa
Priests, each in front of his own house
Zadok, opposite his house
Shemaiah
Hananiah
Hanun
Meshullam, opposite his living quarters
Malkijah, a goldsmith

What might be reasons why the author would list those who did the work?

This passage reveals that everyone had a role, a place to serve.

This passage also points to the common goal, the mission was to build the wall to provide protection.

This passage would spur on people as they saw friends and family names.

This passage reminds us that God knows and values the work that we do in His name.

What was required of people who weren't skilled in building?

None of the people listed reveals skilled workers. There might have been some, but many were just willing to help, to serve. The only negative listed were some "nobles" who chose to not serve.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How could such a diverse group of people come together to do this kind of work?

A common mission, people who see the need and trust God to do the work through them.

How is diversity seen in the New Testament teachings about the church?

Four ways: diversity in ethnicity, spiritual gifts, talents and skills, and backgrounds. No one is remembered by their past sins, their noble birth, or their education. The church of God is for all people, the work of God is for all people, the calling to mission is for all people.

Do you think the American church has this kind of tenacity and diversity in our mission to make disciples? Is ministry for a few gifted people?

Sadly, the American church became a 'come and watch' church as a few did the work. The New Testament church is nothing like this. Everyone is called to serve in many ways and throughout their lives. Even our view of retirement is unseen in the New Testament. Instead, everyone is invited into the joy of ministry (service), the joy of seeing God work through them, and the blessing of seeing God's kingdom come.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

The New Testament calls upon every believer to be servants, to use what God has given them to further the mission to make disciples. How do you see yourself serving? Do you feel that you are fully engaged in the work, even if it isn't something that is your 'usual?' Do you see yourself 'building' in God's work?

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray as we consider the calling of a Lead Pastor.
- Please pray for the many guests who attended the Light and Power prom to connect with our weekly gathering.
- Please pray for how we equip young adults and young families.

May our Father inspire us all to be His “workers” in the kingdom.

Steve