

Nehemiah – Rebuild

Chapter 3 “Working as a Team”

Intro and Review

God had promised Israel that if they obeyed Him, He would bless them as a nation. If they did not, then He would judge them and cause them to be taken into captivity (Deut. 28). Both kingdoms of repeatedly disobeyed God and His hand of judgment fell on all Israel because of their sin, so they were taken captive and dispersed from the promised land. By God’s grace, He sent Zerubbabel(rebuild temple), then Ezra(restore people), then Nehemiah to rebuild the city wall.

Chapter 3: Working as a Team for God’s purpose

To accomplish God’s purpose for His people, we need a common vision, dedicated leaders, and willing workers who do their part.

1. To accomplish God’s purpose, we need a common vision for the task.

- You can’t work together if everyone has a different definition/picture of what you’re trying to accomplish.
- Their task was specific and measurable: to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem to provide a defense against their enemies.

Our task is to see the Great Commission fulfilled, Matthew 28:19-20.

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV) — ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Everything we do for the Lord should have that vision in mind, even though it’s not as immediately obvious how every task contributes to the vision
- We have a clear picture of a disciple of Christ: One committed to Follow, be Changed, and On Mission for Christ.

Question: Who is God placed in your life to share the Gospel with? (Is the gospel message you share reflected in the life you live?)

2. To accomplish God’s purpose, we need dedicated leaders who can help everyone work toward the common vision.

- God accomplishes His purpose through people, but people need leaders to motivate and organize them for the cause.

Seven Leadership Characteristics of Nehemiah

1. A LEADER MUST NOT MIND IF THE CREDIT GOES TO OTHERS: Nehemiah never gives credit to himself, nor is his name mentioned in Ch 3.
2. A LEADER MUST MOTIVATE PEOPLE: Nehemiah new the situation and hearts of his people.
3. A LEADER MUST NOT GET DISTRACTED BY THOSE WHO ARE NOT COOPERATIVE: Nehemiah didn’t expend any energy on the nobles of Tekoa. Rather, he worked with the many willing workers.
4. A LEADER MUST PLAN AND ORGANIZE: He had figured out in advance how to go about this huge task. And there is nothing wrong with organization, as long as we are flexible enough to adapt to the strengths and weaknesses of the individuals involved.
5. A LEADER MUST DELEGATE: Nehemiah couldn’t possibly have done all this work by himself. He had to entrust it to the workers and give them the authority to get the job done.

6. A LEADER MUST OVERSEE: While Nehemiah delegated the work, you can be sure that he went around inspecting the progress, talking to his leaders, helping them keep things moving toward the goal.
7. A LEADER MUST GIVE PROPER RECOGNITION: Nehemiah wrote down in detail who was doing what on this project.

Question: In what ways does my life and ministry reflect my commitment and submission to Jesus and the leadership of His church?

Question: Who has God placed in my life to leader/oversee and how am I leading them into a deeper relationship with Jesus?

3. To accomplish God's purpose, we need willing workers who do their part.

The people heard Nehemiah's vision and they responded, "Let's arise and build" (2:18). Working together they accomplished what no one could have accomplished individually.

Four Lessons of Teamwork

1. COOPERATION AND ORGANIZATION: While some worked in front of their own homes (as already noted), many others came from outlying cities to help (3:2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 16, 17). They coordinated the project so that all the parts fit together. Each person knew what his task was and did it.
2. INTERDEPENDENCY AND COMPLEMENTARY: Each part has a specific and important function to fulfill. Each part depends on the other parts in order for the whole body to function properly.
3. WORKING OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT AND STRENGTHS: All took part in the task; men, women, young, old, and from every profession and skill level.
 - There are many times where we're all called to pitch in, whether it's our gift or not. The point of Nehemiah 3 is that everyone got involved.
4. ALL ROLES ARE VALUABLE: Whether working on the Dung Gate or the Old City Gate, preaching or mopping.

1 Peter 4:10–11 (ESV) — ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Question: Where is the 'gap' that God is calling you to step in a serve? (If you don't know, who can you talk to find your place on the 'wall'?)

Wrap Up

Just as the Israelites under Nehemiah's leadership had been given by God a vision, mission, and process to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem...

We, Jesus' church, have been given a vision, mission, and process to make disciples of all nations! The Why – What – & How we exist and live out our faith as disciples and members of Jesus' church, even in the midst of trials, tribulations.

- Statistics are against families that experience extreme trials and tragedies.
- But Jesus promises us that we are 'more than conquerors' when we pursue and live within His power, grace, truth, and love!

Romans 8:37–39 (ESV) — ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nehemiah 2:18 (NASB95) — ¹⁸ I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." So they put their hands to the good work.