

Let's Worship God

24th-29th June 2019
Nehemiah





Monday - Nehemiah 3:1-5 - Strengthening

It might seem that chapter three is of nothing more than historical interest. That, however, is far from the truth for there are many spiritual lessons to be learned from this chapter. Nehemiah describes the work as he moves round from gate to gate for the gates were the entry points to the city and most vulnerable to attack.

a. The Sheep Gate - so described because that was where the shepherds brought their sheep to sell them. It was here that the high priest and his fellow priests laboured. It must have been a great encouragement for the people to see their spiritual leaders involved in and leading the work. It is very significant that Eliashib is the first person mentioned - he led in the work and more than fifty others are mentioned who followed him. When the gate was built and the doors hung, it was consecrated to the Lord to show that this was done for the glory of God. Col.3:17. Not only was the gate rebuilt, the walls linking it to the next gate were also rebuilt and strengthened to protect the city.

b. The Fish Gate - so called as it was near the fish market, was built by one family and other families worked at making repairs. The word for repairs is the Hebrew word 'chazaq', used 35 times in this chapter alone. It has the idea of strengthening, encouraging, of making something strong. This is something needful in the church as Paul points out in Eph. 4:11-13.

Many were involved in the strengthening work, including the men from Tekoa, but sadly their nobles did not join with them. They would not submit to the Lord. In any work for the Lord there are always some who just want to stand on the sidelines and watch.

Questions

1. Why did they consecrate the doors?
2. Who did not help?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Godly leaders.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. Nehemiah 2:18b

Praise: Psalm 126 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - Nehemiah 3:6-12 - All Who Were Willing

When we read the list of those who willingly engaged in the work of rebuilding and the strengthening of the city walls there are some very interesting insights:

a. These men were not professional builders - there was a goldsmith and a perfumer - but the important thing was that they were willing. Those who may have limited ability but a passion to see the work of the Lord advance will accomplish far more than a talented and gifted person with no passion and heart for the work. Zeal for the Lord and a willing desire to glorify Him are the essential requirements.

b. Those with leadership responsibilities in the community did not delegate the work to others, but joined with them in the hard, physical work. An inactive leadership is no leadership at all.

c. Four times in chapter 3 men are mentioned who made repairs in front of their own houses (Jedaiah v.10, Benjamin v. 23, Zadok v. 29, Meshullum v. 30). In any work of spiritual restoration care must be given to strengthening the home life of the people.

d. Malchijah is mentioned in Ezra 10:31 as a man who was rebuked for having taken a pagan wife; nevertheless, his past sin did not prevent him now serving the Lord. Past sin must be repented of and left behind but must not be allowed to stand in the way of future service.

e. Everyone who was able joined in the work - 'Shallum ...and his daughters made repairs'. Sometimes there are those in the church who do not think they have anything to contribute to the advancement of the cause of Christ, but the lesson here is not that everybody did the same work, but that everybody, men and women, did what they could.

Questions

1. What kind of people did the work?
2. Why is our home life important?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would serve the Lord wherever we could.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. Nehemiah 2:18b

Praise: Psalm 127 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - Nehemiah 3:13-22 - Complete Restoration

The rest of the third chapter gives a list of all those who worked on or around the remaining gates.

a. The restoration was to be a complete one - no gaps were to be left and no part of the structure was to be left un-strengthened or unrepaired. This speaks of the need for the work of spiritual restoration in the church to be a complete one - sound doctrine must be accompanied by loving fellowship, spiritual worship, and zealous outreach.

b. Once again the variety of people involved in the building work is striking - there were officials, Levites, priests, temple servants, goldsmiths, and merchants all joining together for the common good. The great lesson in this is a very characteristic New Testament one - that of diversity in unity, found in such passages as Romans 12 and 1 Cor 12, where Paul speaks of the body of Christ and 'members in particular'. We have all different functions to fulfil and different contributions to make to the whole.

c. There are two more interesting comments made in this section - one man, Baruch is said to have done his work 'carefully' or 'zealously' v.20. Although it seems as though everybody worked with a will, Baruch stood out for the character of his work. He seems to exemplify the teaching of Colossians 3:17,23. There is also mention of the men of Tekoa who were not satisfied with building a section of wall around the fish gate v. 5, they also set to building another section of the wall around the water gate v. 27. When there is a heart for the work of the Lord nothing is too much trouble.

Although Nehemiah is not seen in this chapter, it was his inspired and wise leadership that got the work underway.

Questions

1. How is the church like a body?
2. What did the men of Tekoa do?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all the different gifts Christians have.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. Nehemiah 2:18b

Praise: Psalm 128 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - Nehemiah 3:23-32 - Working Together

The people were working hard to rebuild the walls, and both nobles and people were co-operating together in order to improve the safety and security of their community. There appears to have been an almost universal willingness for the residents of Jerusalem to work together in spite of all the social, economic, and other differences that there were between them.

James Philip makes this very useful comment on the way that the people worked together and related it to the way Christians should work together in the Church:

"Furthermore, everyone was 'next to' someone else, and obviously they could not all have been congenial companions. But it is certain that Nehemiah did not have time to be scuttling around trying to make sure that abrasive personalities would not be rubbing against one another. One does not have time for that sort of luxury when there is danger in the air and there is work to be done. So the most diverse types had to work alongside each other, priests alongside the men of Jericho (did this cramp the latter's style?) rulers alongside commoners. This is the great enriching quality in the Church of God, this is the true meaning of fellowship - the coming together of people all different to one another, all unequal to one another, and therefore, because unequal, utterly dependent on one another."

It is sad when those who are one in their doctrinal understanding allow personal disagreements and differences to disrupt the work of the gospel. The church of Jesus Christ and individual congregations of God's people have a great task to perform, and it is essential that they learn from Nehemiah and seek to work together for the advancement of the kingdom of God and the salvation of lost sinners.

Questions

1. Why were the people able to work together?
2. What is our common goal with other Christians?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put our hand to the work.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. Nehemiah 2:18b

Praise: Psalm 129 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

NEHEMIAH

pray | plan | build

Friday - Nehemiah 4:1-3 - Opposition

It is no surprise that once the work of rebuilding had commenced and seemed to be advancing well that once again Sanballat should make an appearance! When Sanballat and his companion Tobiah first heard that somebody had come to seek the welfare of the Israelites (2:10) they were displeased and disturbed, now that the work was actually under way and was being supported by many of the people, Sanballat became furious and very angry. He had already used derision and mockery to try to prevent the work getting started (2:19), and now he intensifies his mockery and seeks to get others to join him in his opposition (4:2).

The whole purpose of the attacks of Sanballat was to discourage Nehemiah, and when that did not work, to make fun of the work that the people were doing in order to make them disheartened. This is a classic tactic of the devil as he seeks to disrupt the work of the gospel. Many of God's people will never have to suffer persecution or physical violence, but anybody who seeks to be faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve him, will be subject to demeaning comments and mockery. Their intelligence will be questioned if they uphold Biblical teaching on creation, their compassion will be denied if they maintain Biblical views of human sexuality, their love will be abused if they proclaim that salvation is to be found in Christ alone.

It is so important that Christian people prepare themselves for insult and mockery. Most people like to be liked, and it is not easy when you think that people despise you or think that you are stupid simply because you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. We must never forget that this is a method that Satan uses to undermine and disrupt the work of God. The positive side is that it means that you are being an effective servant of the Lord.

Questions

1. What kind of opposition do the Israelites face?
2. What kind of opposition will we face today?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would stay strong in the face of opposition.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. Nehemiah 2:18b

Praise: Psalm 130 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - Nehemiah 4:1-3 - Truth and Lies

The attacks that came from Sanballat and Tobiah could have been very discouraging for the builders. Like many of the attacks of the evil one, there were elements of truth in what they were saying as well as blatant lies.

a. They were described as being 'feeble' and that was, of course, nothing but the truth! They had returned from exile a relatively short time previously, they had no great influence or power, and even with regard to the building project, they were not professional builders, but ordinary people seeking to do a job that needed to be done! This however, is the glory of the work of God! God does not use the great and mighty but chooses the 'weak things of the world to confound the mighty' (1 Cor.1:27,28).

b. They were accused of unrealistic expectations. The mention of sacrifice and finishing the work in a day is a mocking suggestion that somehow they were going offer sacrifices and expect that God would miraculously restore the walls for them! This, of course was never mentioned by Nehemiah, neither was it in his mind. Perhaps the idea was that it would demonstrate to the builders the immensity and near impossibility of the task and thus discourage them.

c. They were accused of vanity. They were 'restoring it for themselves' (4:2); it was 'their stone wall (4:3). The enemy attempted to make them forget that what they were doing was for God's glory and at His command. They could not prevent the work because Nehemiah had the king's permission, all they could do was to discourage the Jews into stopping.

Such is the work of Satan - to discourage believers by pointing out their weakness, suggesting the task is too great and making them take their eyes off the Lord.

Questions

1. Were the people feeble?
2. Why were they restoring the wall?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. Nehemiah 2:18b

Praise: Psalm 131 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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