

Building Together – Nehemiah 3

Clarification – This sermon series about “building a wall” does not have a political agenda!

For Nehemiah, building this wall around Jerusalem was not about keeping people out as much as it was about bringing people back in!

Jerusalem was the place where people encountered God through worship!
Jerusalem was the place where God’s people were on display for the world!
Jerusalem was the place where God’s promises received their fulfillment!

Rebuilding the wall meant re-establishing hope, for God’s people, and also for the world! Jerusalem was to be a beacon of light & hope in this world!

The Church is called to serve this same function today!

Do people see, that what we do here @ BRC is all about encounters w/God?
Does God use us, His Church, as a means of bringing hope & light to the world?
Do the promises of God see their fulfillment, as we live into our calling?

Do we see these parallels? For Nehemiah, it was more than just building a wall, & for us today, it’s more than just “going to church!”

It’s about God, raising up His people, uniting us together, and fulfilling His great redemptive purposes through us – His Church!

Could there be anything better to be a part of? Each of us must decide if this is what we want to give our lives to & be a part of?

Nehemiah Ch 3 is all about those who said yes to God’s invitation to join Him!

Listen to all the names, because the names represent all those who rose up!
Listen to who they were, where they were from, how different their stories!
Listen to how God used the building of a wall to engage & unite His people!

Nehemiah 3:1-32 – possibly the hardest chapter in the Bible to read!

Some observations from Nehemiah 3:

- Good leaders will step up first!

Vs. 1 – “Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate!”

I pray that the leaders of BRC will continue to be the first ones to step up and lead us into God’s redemptive purposes!

Isn’t it always more enticing to join in when the leaders lead by example?

- Not everyone will buy into the vision and join in the work!

Vs. 5 – “And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.”

I pray that that would never be said of us as a church! If Jesus was willing to stoop to wash Judas’ feet, if He was willing to stoop to take on flesh in order to redeem us, I hope that we would have such a posture!

- Some people will serve beyond their abilities in order to do their part!

Vs. 8 – “Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, & they restored the wall as far as the Broad Wall.”

I pray that we, BRC, would always be willing to step in & serve in God’s redemptive cause, no matter our occupation, position, or stage of life!

- Every movement of God, every church, needs people like a Malchijah!

Vs. 14–“Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it & set its doors, its bolts, & its bars.”

I pray that there would never be an area of ministry/mission/need that does not get addressed because of the nature or location of the work!

- Good leaders always point out what others are doing for the cause!

You won’t find Nehemiah’s name in Ch. 3, not b/c he wasn’t involved, but b/c he wanted to highlight everyone else who was engaged in the work.

If a great work is going to be done, it will be because God is behind it, & because God’s people all rise up to join in the work together!

Do we know the good work that God has called BRC to? Have we stepped up to join in that work? Would our names be listed in the chapter that tells the story?

If this picture of the wall around Jerusalem better informs us of the story of God’s work thru His people then, could it also inform us of our story today?

1-28-18 Building Together – Nehemiah 3

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