**Nehemiah 3**

**Introduction**

There are some passages contained in scripture that cause must excitement and many lessons are presented from. Think of Acts 2 and the beginning of the church and the multiple lessons that have been taught from that passage. Yet, there are also passages that leave us scratching out head as to the purpose they have been left for us.

Nehemiah 3 gives a list of names of those people who worked on rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. We might understand the reason those at that time would have recorded that but what message does that have for us today? Whenever I have a list of names in the Bible I always reflect on how the NT tells all recorded revelation is profitable and helpful to us.

* Romans 15:4
* 2 Timothy 3:16-17
* Romans 4:22-24
* 1 Peter 1:10-12

So, if I have not recognized the benefit of a passage then I must keep digging until I find the jewels. How does Nehemiah 3 challenge and encourage us in our Christian walk?

**1. Unity**

* 2:17-18: “We/us” 4x

Nehemiah was hurt that Jerusalem was in such bad shape (1:4; 2:3) so he has come to rebuild the walls. One of the things he has done a great job at is rallying the people not only to work but to be united (2:17-18). ***They are going to rise and build as one people!***

You can see the nation working together even in the verbiage of Nehemiah 3. You see the phrase “next to him” appear 10 times in the chapter (3:2, 2x in 4, 5, 2x in 8, 10, 12, 17, 19).[[1]](#footnote-1) The unity that is seen in building the walls is helps them as they face difficulties.

a) Because they are unified, they face difficulties by praying together (4:9)

* Acts 4:23-31: Early church dealing with threats

b) Because they are unified, Nehemiah tells them to fight for each other (4:14)

* Unity provides motivation to stand against the enemy

c) Because they are unified, they want to rush to each other’s aid at a moment’s notice (4:19-20)

* As the wall continues to be built, they are getting more spread out… listen for trumpet!

d) Because they are unified, they can handle internal problems (5:13)

* Internal problems can cause so many issues
* But once the problem is known then everyone gathers; addressed quickly

They come together to build the wall and it helped them work through whatever they faced.

**2. Need to Act**

* 1:3: Everyone in is difficult situation

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah give multiple examples of the numerous enemies that Israel faced during this time. They were unprotected and vulnerable, so they knew they needed to act. They realize the precariousness of their situation and the importance to act. ***The work is too important to stay on the sideline!*** As you read through the chapter you will notice that almost everyone is involved in the work.

* Next to their house (3:10, 23, 28-30): Wisdom in this
* Priests and Levites (3:1, 17, 22, 28)
* Perfumer (3:8)
* Repairs with daughters (3:12)
* Goldsmiths (3:8, 31-32)
* Merchants (3:32)
* Multiple sections (3:4 with 3:21; 3:5 with 3:27)

No one is an expert, but all are willing to put their hand to the work. The work is very difficult, but they know it is worth it! They know the work is important and that completing the work will help everyone.

The work for the Lord is too important to sit on the sideline. All hands-on deck. Every talent being used. Working for the Lord will help everyone. Paul calls the elders to be alert because difficult things are coming and he says he warned them day and night while he was with them (Acts 20:31). He did not want anyone taking a passive approach because it was too important.

**3. Baruch son Zabbai**

* 3:20

There is an interesting statement made about Baruch in 3:20… he undertook the repairs on his section with zeal. In a time where everyone is helping out and doing what they can this guy stand out as someone who carries out his work with incredible passion!

Titus 2:14

**4. Leadership**

3:1: High Priest (first one mentioned is a leader)

3:9: Official of half the district of Jerusalem (Rephaiah the son of Hur)

3:12: Official of half the district of Jerusalem (Shallum the son of Hallohesh)

3:14: Official of half the district of Beth-haccherem (Malchijah the son of Rechab)

3:15: Official of the district of Mizpah (Shallum the son of Col-hozeh)

3:16: Official of the district of Beth-zur (Nehemiah the son of Azbuk)

3:17: Official of the district of Keilah (Hashabiah)

3:18: Official of the district of Keilah (Bavvai the son of Henadad)

3:19: Official of Mizpah (Ezer the son of Jeshua)

5:16: Nehemiah works on the wall

a) Leading by example

3:17: Seems Official of the district of Keilah (Hashabiah) does most of the work himself!

**5. Dealing with lack of support**

* 3:5

The Tekoites make repairs to a section of the wall, but they are the only group that was not supported by their leaders. It is a pretty obvious statement that you would want your leaders to support you in this effort, but they do not. It does not seem to have affected them negatively because they end up repairing not one (3:5) but two (3:27) sections!

Sometimes in our spiritual life we are not supported by those that we love. I know a number of people who because Christians later in life and mates are not Christians. Their unchristian mates are not very encouraging and often discourage them in their walks with the Lord. How do you deal with that?

1. “After him” which appears 12 times in the chapter (3:16-18, 20-22, 24-25, 29-30, 2x in 30, 31) might be a similar type of phrase. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)