Sermon Notes – Nehemiah 3 **"The Power of Unity"**

Having "One Mind"

What would it look like for the entire community to work together?

Philippians 2:2 "…complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind…"

Unity of Intent

Having the priorities of Jesus

Matthew 22:37-40 "And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'"

Put simply

Love God

This includes all of how we lay down our lives for God, not just singing on a Sunday morning.

Love People

This includes caring for people spiritually through the Gospel, physically through care, and also emotionally and mentally through relationship.

Diversity of Interest

Different jobs by different people

Different families – v. 12
Different individuals – v. 10
Different districts (areas organized for administration, like towns in the region) – v.14
Different community roles – v. 1
Different professional associations – v. 8

People get involved with God's kingdom for different reasons

Philippians 2:4 "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Variety of Involvement

Most did their part

The whole chapter emphasizes people who fulfilled their responsibility.

Some did nothing

Nehemiah 3:5 "And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord."

Some did double

The Tekoites (the ordinary people, not their nobles) — Nehemiah 3:5 and 3:27
After repairing one section (3:5), "the Tekoites repaired another section" (3:27).

Meremoth son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz — Nehemiah 3:4 and 3:21
He repaired one section (3:4) and later "repaired another section" (3:21).

Your name is in a book, too

Revelation 14:13 "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'"

Revelation 20:11-13 "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ***12*** *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.* ***13*** *And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done."*

Questions for Further Study and Application

1. Why is unity so important to the church?
2. What are the priorities of Jesus, and what does it look like for us to be united in them?
3. People have different interests and passions as they live out their calling. Do you know yours? Do you value those of your brothers and sisters in Christ?
4. When the books are opened at the end of time, will there be anything written of your deeds that follow you? How are you living for God's reward?