

“Your Place in the Progress”

Nehemiah Chapter 3

When it comes to working for God, each of us have a job to do and role to play. In the Church we are each called to “do the work of the ministry” and “fulfill our ministry” Nehemiah didn’t take credit for rebuilding the walls. He says in 4:6, “So WE built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for THE PEOPLE had a mind to work.”

“When it comes to the work of the Lord, there is no place for spectators or self-appointed advisors and critics; but there is always room for workers.” -WW

What is your place in the progress?

1. LEADERS MUST LEAD BY EXAMPLE AND HUMILITY.

A. The first worker is Eliashib the high priest doing the hard work (3:1)
Pastors must be examples.

- i. 1 Peter 5:2–3 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock
- ii. Acts 20:18–19 And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;

B. We must not feel too important to do the work (Like vs. 5 nobles).
Paul was a tentmaker and Jesus was a carpenter.

- i. Uganda pastors “kings”
- ii. Luke 22:27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

C. The Church needs ministry leaders (deacons?)

- i. “leaders” (9,12,14,15,16,17,18,19)

2. WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER BUT WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT

A. Unified: Working together for a common cause.

- i. The phrases “next to him,” “next to them,” “next to that,” “the next section,” “beside him,” and “beyond them,” occur 28 times in this chapter.

- ii. Romans 15:5–6 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Different: God uses all kinds of people with all kinds of gifts

- i. The chapter mentions rulers and priests (1, 12–19), men and women (12), professional craftsmen (8, 32), and even people from outside the city (2, 5, 7).
- ii. 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
- iii. 1 Corinthians 12:18–20 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.
- iv. “Hashub” Random guy working on the tower of the ovens. (vs.11)

3. THERE ARE PRIORITIES IN OUR PLACEMENT

A. The work starts at home. “In front of their own house”

- i. 1 Timothy 3:5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?
- ii. Ministry becomes a family affair. (see vs.12) Stronger families mean stronger Churches.
- iii. Acts 21:9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

B. The work is for the good of the whole congregation.

- i. Nehemiah 4:6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.