

It's Time to Get Connected

Nehemiah 3

The most valuable resource you have isn't money. It isn't talent or charisma.

The most valuable resource you possess is your relationships.

We've developed a burden...

We've decided to seize the moment and take some next steps...

But **now** is when we get derailed, *unless*...

Nehemiah 2:11-18 NLT

11 So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, **12** I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding. **13** After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal's Well, and over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. **14** Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but my donkey couldn't get through the rubble. **15** So, though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back and entered again at the Valley Gate.

16 The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. **17** But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" **18** Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

3 Reasons to GET CONNECTED:

1. There is always too much to do alone. (2:11-15)

When you've developed a burden for all the brokenness around you...
And out of that burden, you've cultivated a vision for how to get it done...
Then things get **overwhelming**.

Life is too big and too scary to try to do it all alone.

2. You were meant to do life with others. (2:16-18)

Colossians 3:15 CEV

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace.

I need several overlapping circles of people.

- I need my whole church (whether that's 30, 300, or 3,000)
- I need my small group (usually 8 to 12 or so)
- I need my smaller group (my 2 or 3 who can ask me anything)

Connection always works two ways.

3. Together, we can change the world. (3:1-32)

We're not going to read chapter three out loud together because it's 32 verses of ancient Jewish names, but that doesn't mean it isn't important. Skim it. See how many times you see phrases such as "*next to him...*" and then "*next to him...*" and then "*next to him...*"

**If last week's message was all about seizing the moment,
this week's is about turning the moment into a movement!**

A great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a great church!

In other words, our church ought to be all about five things:

- Loving God (worship)
- Loving others (ministry)
- Sharing Jesus (evangelism)
- Baptizing people (fellowship)
- Growing spiritually (discipleship)

You ***belong*** IN this community, even before you ***believe*** WITH this community.

WE WANT TO BE YOUR PEOPLE!