

All in it Together

Nehemiah 3

Small Group Study, week commencing 20th September 2021.

For Starters

Recall a time when you were part of a team and together you achieved something worthwhile. What made it memorable?

Read

Nehemiah 3:1-14 (at least!), and ideally the whole chapter.

Context

Nehemiah has established the extent of the work necessary to rebuild the wall. He has presented his proposal to the Jews living in Jerusalem, and they have responded positively to the proposal. "Let us start rebuilding" (2:18). But it's one thing to have a vision and a plan, and another thing to execute it. In chapter 3 the work begins...

Study

1. The rebuilding work wasn't a job for professional builders. What kind of people took part in the repair of the wall? What would you have said to someone who didn't want to get involved because "they didn't have the gift of masonry"?

Notice, for example, a perfume-maker (8), a goldsmith (8), and the priests (1,22,28) all actively involved.

2. The people organised themselves as communities (2,7,13) and families (3,12), and where appropriate tackled sections of the wall that were close to home (10). What were the strengths of this approach?

3. Notice how people from Jericho (2) and Tekoa (5) got stuck in, even though they didn't live in Jerusalem; and likewise people from Gibeon and Mizpah (7), who were under the governor of Samaria. What does this suggest about our involvement in the life of the wider church, not just our own local congregation? Why should we be involved in activities that don't directly benefit us?

4. One sad exception to the community rebuilding project were certain nobles who "would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors" (6). Poet Robert Frost once said, "The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, the rest willing to let them." How can we guard against a "consumer mentality" towards church and God's work generally?

5. The chapter is a record of many people's names. Why did the author of Nehemiah record them all? What is the practical implication for us?

6. Where do you see opportunities for 'building' in CBC at the moment? How would you be willing to contribute?

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Prayer

“From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16).

Pray that we will work together in love to see God’s church grow.

Resources

In addition to the Blog posts, all small group studies can also be located in chichesterbaptist.org/smallgroupresources. The Blog posts will continue to be posted on the Sunday preceding the message, but the studies may be available sooner from this page.