

The Community of God Working Together

Observations of Nehemiah 3

Who is our community? John 1:11-13, 1 Cor 12-14, Matt 12:46-50

What are we building? 1 Cor 12:4-7, 24b-26, 14:12, 1 Pet 2:9-12, Matt 5:14-16

Where is our God? Neh 2:18



NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 3:1-12

^[1] Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. ^[2] And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

^[3] The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ^[4] And next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired. And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired. ^[5] And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.

^[6] Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ^[7] And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, the seat of the governor of the province Beyond the River. ^[8] Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ^[9] Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired. ^[10] Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired. ^[11] Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahathmoab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ^[12] Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.

John 1:11-13

^[11] He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ^[12] But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ^[13] who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

^[12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ^[13] For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ^[14] For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Matthew 12:46-50

^[46] While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ^[48] But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ^[49] And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" ^[50] For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

^[4] Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ^[5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ^[6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ^[7] To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:24b-26

^[24b] But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ^[25] that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ^[26] If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 14:12

^[12] So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

1 Peter 2:9-12

^[9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ^[10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

^[11] Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ^[12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Matthew 5:14-16

^[14] "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ^[15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ^[16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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June 26, 2022

Open: Share about a time you were involved in a group project that was either really positive or really negative. What made it that way?

Read & Discuss: Nehemiah 3:1-32

1. From chapters 1-2, what have you observed in Nehemiah that led to this work of rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem actually get started? When have you seen a leader rally people toward a project that initially looked daunting, but that in the end made progress?
2. What different types of people were involved in this building project? Why was this diversity important? How have you seen diversity on a team prove valuable in completing a task? When team diversity creates conflict, what have you found helpful in working through that conflict?
3. What are some of the assigned tasks that you observe in the building of this wall? What part of the work would you have been interested in doing if you had lived in Jerusalem? What are some ways you've seen God use your gifts, talents or skills to build His Church today?
4. Work on the wall was sometimes assigned based on family or according to where one lived. If you were living in Jerusalem, how would working on the section next to your house impact your work? What motivates you to work hard in the ministries in which you serve? What could we do to foster a greater sense of ownership among our members in the work of our church?
5. Verse 5 tells us there was a group of people who would not "stoop to serve the Lord." What are some reasons people resist getting involved in ministry today? How would you explain to a new believer the blessings that come from being involved in ministry?
6. What are some goals, projects, or ministries in our church that require a team effort in order to be successful? How do you typically evaluate whether or not to get involved in such a project? What do you think Nehemiah might say to you regarding the response you just gave?

Apply: How would you assess the division of labor for work within our church? What could you do to bring about a better sense of cooperation and commitment among our church family?

Pray: Pray that God would work to instill within our church family a greater sense of ownership, cooperation and commitment to the work which God has called us to.

Nehemiah 3:1-32

¹ Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. ² And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

³ The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ⁴ And next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired. And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired. ⁵ And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.

⁶ Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ⁷ And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, the seat of the governor of the province Beyond the River.

⁸ Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹ Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired. ¹⁰ Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired. ¹¹ Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.

¹³ Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate.

¹⁴ Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

¹⁵ And Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it and covered it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. And he built the wall of the Pool of Shelah of the king's garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the city of David. ¹⁶ After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, ruler of half the district of Beth-zur, repaired to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool, and as far as the house of the mighty men. ¹⁷ After him the Levites repaired: Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, repaired for his district. ¹⁸ After him their brothers repaired: Bavvai the son of Henadad, ruler of half the district of Keilah. ¹⁹ Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section opposite the ascent to the armory at the buttress. ²⁰ After him Baruch the son of Zabbai repaired another section from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹ After him Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired another section from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib. ²² After him the priests, the men of the surrounding area, repaired. ²³ After them Benjamin and Hasshub repaired opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah repaired beside his own house. ²⁴ After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress and to the corner. ²⁵ Palal the son of Uzai repaired opposite the buttress and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king at the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh ²⁶ and the temple servants living on Ophel repaired to a point opposite the Water Gate on the east and the projecting tower. ²⁷ After him the Tekoites repaired another section opposite the great projecting tower as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Above the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house. ²⁹ After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, repaired. ³⁰ After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah repaired opposite his chamber. ³¹ After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, opposite the Muster Gate, and to the upper chamber of the corner. ³² And between the upper chamber of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired. (ESV)