

Review:

Nehemiah’s pain for Jerusalem (1:3-4), led to his prayer to God (1:5-11) and his petition to King Artaxerxes (2:1-9). God opened the doors and Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and cast a vision for the people of God to “arise and build.”



A Nation in Peril (John 10:10): How must God’s people respond to the peril of destruction and decay? (John 10:10)

I. Destruction and decay call God’s people to energetic dedication.

a. The work was begun by God’s representatives.

See also 2 Corinthians 5:20; 1 Timothy 2:5

b. The work was begun to provide access to the temple of God.

See also 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

c. The work was begun with consecration to God.

II. Destruction and decay call God’s people to dynamic unity.

Additional Scriptures: *Nehemiah 2:18-20*

God has called ordinary people with diverse backgrounds, abilities, gifts and vocations to active, unified participation!

a. True Unity promotes participation.

Additional Scriptures: *Heb. 10:24; Matthew 9:37*

Who participated?

- **Inhabitants of diverse regions** (vv. 5, 13)
- **Union men** (v. 8)
- **Both sexes** (v. 12)
- **Families** (v. 12)
- **Singles** (v. 23)
- **Civic leaders** (vv. 9, 12)
- **Religious leaders** (vv. 1, 17)
- **Merchants** (v. 32)

a. True Unity presupposes surrender.

**“When you surrender, your life no longer belongs to yourself.
You have placed your life at the mercy of another.
When you make a commitment, you still belong to yourself
and it is up to you as to whether or not you live up to that commitment.”**
(Josef Tson, Romanian Pastor)

III. Destruction and decay call God's people to diverse responsibility.

Two opposite responses to God-given responsibility and opportunity:

a. **Contemptible Elitism:** Resistant Pride (v. 5).

The phrase "did not put their shoulders to" suggests...

"We are always tempted, in the face of large disasters, to look for heroic and large remedies, and to invoke corporate action of some sort, which is a great deal easier for most of us than the personal effort that is required."(Alexander McClaren)

b. **Contagious Enthusiasm:** Infectious Glow (v. 20)

- Your enthusiasm for God's work is directly related to your heart for God. (Colossians 3:23-24)
- YOUR WORK is done when THE WORK is done. (vs. 4, 21, 31; John 9:4)
- Do not excuse your lack of participation or weak enthusiasm for God's work on poor leadership or the failures of others. (v. 5, 27)

Conclusion:

Where should you begin to look for your "piece of the wall"? (vv. 17, 20-22, 23, 28, 29, 30)

- **Pray** for God's guidance.
- **Look** around.
- **Consult** with Christian friends.
- **Receive** guidance. (Check out HSC's Assimilation Team!)
- **Follow** your Holy Spirit-controlled heart.
- **Build** (get to work!)

Nehemiah: Servant to The King:

Pastor Stephen Schultze

“When God’s People Respond” (Nehemiah 3)

Sunday, July 5, 2009

Introduction:

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Additional Scriptures: Nehemiah 2:18-20

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- Religious leaders (vv. 1, 17)
- Merchants (v. 32)

c. True Unity presupposes _____.

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