Have You Seen This Chapter

Erin Percell · Nehemiah 3

INTRODUCTION

- He didn't build the wall by himself. And that's what Nehemiah chapter 3 is about.
- So we want to think a little bit about why this evening. What is chapter 3 there for? What lessons are in it for us?

1 Showing Up Is Only a Start

Hebrews 10:24–25

- Showing up and being there was only a start. They needed to build on the legacy of those generations who had gone before and done some of that work.
- Part of the reason for our assembly is back there in verse 24, that we consider one another to provoke, to stimulate, to stir up love and good works.
- What I have in mind is work with a spiritual focus.
- A spiritual kingdom needs spiritual work.

2 Success Is a Group Effort

Nehemiah 3:1–4; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:14–16

- Look at a phrase in there that's pretty easy to pass over. Next to them, next to them, next to them, and next to them.
- The wall was going to protect all of them, or it was going to protect none of them.
- From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- Working together makes it easier for us to go on when we see the other person going ahead.

3 God Knows Who Works

Matthew 6:1–6; Revelation 14:13; Nehemiah 3:5

- Even if nobody else knows, God does. The list of names here is a list of names written in God's book.
- If you're working for the Lord and you feel unappreciated, just remember that God knows. And you're in his book.
- The flip side of that is that God also knows who doesn't work.
- What he says is, these people didn't work when it was time to work.

4 Work Deserves Recognition

Matthew 26:6–13; 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13; Philippians 2:25–30

- So it doesn't matter if people notice what you do. But if you notice what somebody else is doing, let them know.
- When people do things that are good and you notice them, and you say, Good job, that kind of stimulates them to want to do more of that.
- We urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you. And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.
- Every once in a while, notice the people who are doing those things. They'll appreciate it.

5 Unpleasant Work Has to Be Done

Nehemiah 3:14

- If there's no wall in that section of town, the next army that comes along is going to have no qualms at all about spending a few minutes in the garbage dump to get into the city.
- There's always work in the church that is unpleasant. But it has to be done.
- We need to talk about sin. We need to talk about repentance. That's hard.
- The city of God, needs defense all the way around, even when sometimes it involves working in some places that are less pleasant.

6 We've Got to Live With What We Build

Nehemiah 3:23; Nehemiah 3:28–30

- Every one of us in the church has to build on his own spiritual house as well as building on the collective city.
- Whatever route Satan may take to come in, let it not be through my house.
- The quality of the church comes from its internal circumstances.
- If the church is not what I want it to be, I shouldn't just sit and complain about it. I need to get to building.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you working with the people of God on building the holy city where they dwell? You should be. But if you're not, you can become one of his workers this evening.

MY NOTES