

Building for the Lord

Neh. 2:17-20

Introduction:

- A. Nehemiah finds the beloved city of his fathers in ruins.
 - 1. Had been destroyed about 150 years before by Babylon.
 - 2. Was still in ruins about 100 years after the return from captivity.
- B. Nehemiah rallies the people to rise up and rebuild the wall.
 - 1. They finished it ahead of schedule in spite of many problems.
 - 2. They leave us an example for help us in building up any congregation.
- C. Nehemiah and his people some traits needed to build and rebuild for the Lord.

Discussion:

I. They Had a *Working Mentality*.

- A. Nehemiah was a great leader, but people had mind to work (4:6; 2:18).
- B. Leadership can do little unless people want to work.
 - 1. True of any organization
 - 2. Especially true of the church (cf. Eph. 4:16; Acts 8:4; 11:29).
- C. A working mentality will minimize many internal problems.
 - 1. Too mentally involved for petty strife and criticism.
 - 2. Too absorbed to notice most irritations of brethren.

II. They Had a *Balanced Approach*.

- A. They mixed weapons with work (4:16-17).
 - 1. Weapons without work would have left the wall in ruins.
 - 2. Work without weapons would made the work impossible.
- B. Churches are not built up by either weapons or work alone.
 - 1. Like a good lawn they need “weed and feed.”
 - 2. It takes a lot of planting, watering, teaching, exhorting, etc. (Cf. 1 Cor. 3:6; 2 Tim. 4:2-4).
 - 3. It also takes a lot of contending for the faith (Jude 3; Gal. 2:4-5, 11-14).

III. They Were *Hindrance Resistant*.

- A. Unhindered by ridicule from enemies (4:1-3).
- B. Unhindered by open threats to attack (4:7-8) — fortified themselves by keep working.
- C. Unhindered by subtle efforts to stop the work (6:1-4).
- D. Unhindered by unfounded rumors (6:5-9).
- E. Unhindered because they believed they were doing a great work (6:3)

IV. They Were *Responsibility Conscious*.

- A. “The people stood in their place” (8:7,8).
- B. Churches are built up each member standing in his place.
 - 1. The Leaders aware their place of responsibility and stand in it.
 - 2. Other members aware of their place responsibility and stand in it.
 - 3. When each does his share the whole body is built up (cf. Eph 4:16)

Conclusion:

- A. Let’s all get involved in greatest work in the work — building up God’s house.
- B. Let us follow the example of those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.