

More Than Just A Name



READ: Nehemiah 2:18; 3:1-5

I (Nehemiah), also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.
Neh. 2: 18

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. ² The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them.

³ The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. ⁴ Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. ⁵ The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors. Nehemiah 3:1-5

Q: Why were these names important to mention in the rebuilding process?

*"The purpose of life is not to be happy.
It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate,
to have it make some difference
that you have lived and lived well."
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

REFLECT: What does it take for us to become the "lights" that Jesus describes below?

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Nehemiah describes a desperate & difficult time for God's people during his time of life. He saw the need to challenge them to work together and they stepped up to that challenge! Our key verse at NewDay reminds us that...

For we are God's masterpiece (his workmanship).
He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

Key Steps

1. If we're going to build God's Kingdom in desperate times...

WE ALL NEED TO...

Note all the verses in Nehemiah 3 where it talks about people working "next to, beside, and opposite" their own home. Why is that significant?

Nehemiah 3:10,23,28,29,30

Remember one of Jesus' greatest calls in your life – "Love your neighbor as yourself?" How is that working itself out in your life?

2. If we're going to build God's Kingdom in desperate times...

WE ALL NEED TO WORK FROM...

Note the phrase, "next to" in Nehemiah 3:2,4,5,7,8,9,10,12,17,19
AND also the phrase, "after him" (3:1-18,20-31)

Why was working in such close proximity helpful to complete the work?



"Good things happen to a team when a player takes the place where he adds the most value. Great things happen when all the players on the team take the role that maximizes their strengths—their talent, skill, and experience."

John Maxwell, The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork: Embrace Them and Empower Your Team

3. If we're going to build God's Kingdom in these desperate times...

WE ALL NEED TO BE WILLING...

Neh. 3:14, "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."

"job crafting" - "People who job-craft don't just reshape their jobs to make life better for themselves, but to serve others in some beneficial way."

David Sturt, Great Work, McGraw Hill, 2014

How can we view our work this way?

Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

I was asked this question in an interview:

"What do you most want to be remembered for?"

Think about that statement and write down at least three things you want to be remembered for and why. Share that with someone this week.

How are you doing in making that a reality in your life?

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Robert F. Kennedy

Revive, Rebuild, Restore: Moving Forward with God's Vision

January 8, 2023 – More Than Just A Name (Neh. 2:18; 3:1-32)

January 15 – Overcoming Opposition & Discouragement (Neh. 4)

January 22 – Restoring Right Relationships (Neh. 5)

January 29 – Dealing with Distractions (Neh. 6)

February 5 – Where Do I Fit In? (Neh. 7)

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships With God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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(Online giving: <http://www.newdaycov.org/give>)

