

Gospel-Driven City Builders

Proclamation Bible Study; Week of Sunday, February 16, 2020; Steve Thiel

Nehemiah leads the people to rebuild the city, which requires wisdom, teamwork, and the ability to labor in the midst of opposition. Nehemiah points us to Jesus, who is the ultimate city builder, doing everything necessary to save sinners and make them fit for the eternal city of God.

I. City Builders Must Be Wise – Read Nehemiah 2:9-20

- A. How is God's abundant faithfulness seen in the fact that King Artaxerxes sends Nehemiah not only with letters but also officers of the army and horsemen? How do the letters highlight Nehemiah's wisdom?
- B. Do you think Nehemiah's late-night reconnaissance mission was a smart move? Why or why not? When you come into a new scenario, do you tend to go straight to work or survey the situation? Explain.
- C. To what did Nehemiah appeal when he sought to recruit the people of God to rebuild the city? How is that approach still a great way to motivate people today?
- D. Nehemiah points us to Jesus, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24) and the ultimate city builder. Therefore, what do you think it looks like in our day to be innocent as doves and shrewd as serpents (Matt. 10:16)?

II. City Builders Must Work Together – Read Nehemiah 3:1-32

- A. What strikes you about Nehemiah's strategy to rebuild the city and the amount of people willing to help? Why do you appreciate a good strategy and a large crowd when you're asked to help out with a project?
- B. What are your thoughts about the 80/20 rule in the church? What are the benefits to having "all hands on deck"? What are the negatives to that approach? How do we maximize the strengths of this strategy?
- C. Verse 5 highlights naysayers. When are you most prone to having a negative attitude? How would you like to grow in having a humble, servant-hearted attitude that is happy to do whatever is most helpful?

III. City Builders Must Engage the Enemy – Read Nehemiah 4:1-23

- A. What strikes you about the enemies of God in this chapter? Are you surprised that they are seeking to kill the people of God and stop the rebuilding project? Why or why not?
- B. Nehemiah again models this glorious balance of praying and working. How would you like to grow in having your first instinct be prayer (v.4) and yet be bold to engage the battle (v.14)?
- C. How is Jesus the ultimate example of what it looks like to engage a raging enemy in order to build the city of God? Can you think of passages that help make these connections (i.e. Psalm 2 or Acts 4:27)?
- D. In Nehemiah 4:16-18, the people work with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other. If God's people follow that example today, what does it look like for us to fight the enemy and to build the city?