

A Great Work

Nehemiah 3

INTRODUCTION:

1. People say that one's work (trade or profession) is his "calling." This gives work dignity.
2. Manual labor is honorable; indolence is degrading; dishonesty is ruinous.
3. Honest toil should fear no shame.
4. When life is considered service to God, it is redeemed from selfishness (cf. Rom. 12:1, 2).
5. In life one fights and conquers or fights and falls.
6. In working for God, let us learn from Nehemiah and his noble band of laborers.

DISCUSSION: A great work...

I. Is planned by a great mind.

- A. Many saw the desolations of the city; some wept over them, but only Nehemiah had the mind and talents of mind to make the repairs.
- B. Equality is impossible. Some are born to command.
- C. Nehemiahs have comprehensive minds.

II. Is accomplished by division of labor.

- A. Nehemiah's organizing brain needed the hands of the men of Jericho (v. 2).
- B. Architects need clerks, masons, carpenters, steel workers, and stone cutters.
- C. Authors need researchers, printers, binders, and booksellers.
- D. Sailors, soldiers, policemen, and firefighters hazard their lives for the general good.
 1. One goes abroad, the other stays at home.
 2. One man works with his hands, another with his brain.
- E. All obeying the same laws.

III. Is accomplished by attention to detail.

- A. Little things are important, e.g. bolts and bars (vv. 3, 6, 13, 14, 15).
- B. One who refuses to pay attention to minor details and gradual advancements cannot succeed.
- C. Leaders must be concerned about Bible class teachers, those who serve communion, visitation, and communicating with the congregation.

IV. Involves the recognition and use of abilities.

- A. The men of Jericho built the wall, but the sons of Hassenaah built the gate (vv. 2, 3).
- B. The eloquent Apollos "taught accurately the things concerning Jesus" (Acts 18:25), but the deft-handed Dorcas clothed the naked (Acts 9:36, 39).
- C. "If all were a single member, where would the body be?" (cf. 1 Cor. 12:14-31).

V. Has regard for practical utility.

- A. The Fish Gate was as necessary as the temple wall.
- B. The work began at the temple, but it did not stop there.
- C. Every man/woman should be asked, “*For what* is your work?”
- D. Evangelism is the work of the church (cf. Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
 - 1. That work is facilitated (aided) by benevolence (cf. Gal. 6:10).
 - 2. That work is facilitated (aided) by edification (cf. 1 Cor. 14:26).

VI. Has a lofty purpose.

- A. Nehemiah and his people were rebuilding the “City of David” (v. 15).
- B. Christians are “God’s fellow workers...God’s field, God’s building” (1 Cor. 3:9).

VII. Looks to the future.

- A. It has within it the element of permanence.
- B. Nehemiah fondly hoped to be building the city of the future of Israel.
- C. Abraham was looking forward “to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God” (Heb. 11:10).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. In this life, God’s servants are “faithful in a very little” (Luke 16:10), but in the next life, they are “set...over much” (Matt. 25:23).
- 2. The first word is “be faithful,” and the second is, “be faithful,” and the third is “be faithful” (cf. Rev. 2:10).