



Nehemiah 3-7 | A Mind to Work

Nehemiah 4:1-6

¹ Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!” ⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. ⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

Background

After seeing the walls for himself, Nehemiah had to put a plan into action in order to rebuild the walls. People from all walks of life (merchants, perfumers, rulers, religious elites, and lay people) all came together to rebuild the wall because they each had a “mind to work.” No work of God arises without some form of opposition. For Nehemiah and the Jews rebuilding the Temple they had both internal (chapter 5) and external conflict (chapter 6) that continually put the building project at risk. But, as Pastor David will show us this week, when we have a steady focus and strong resolve to finish what God calls us to do – a true “mind to work” – then no matter how unqualified we may feel nor how much opposition we may face, we can know that the work God has entrusted to us is always worth it!

Service Notes

What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What stood out to you in this week’s message? What challenged you? What prompted questions? How has God been faithful to you this week? How can we pray for you?

Talk it Over

- ▼ Why do you think Nehemiah listed people from all walks of life (merchants, perfumers, leaders, lay people) as participants in the rebuilding project? What can this teach us about cooperating with others for the work of God around us? Have you ever used the excuse “I don’t have that spiritual gift” to avoid something God was asking of you? Why? How does this hurt our own spiritual growth?
- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 4:1-9.** How did Nehemiah’s detractors try to stop the building project? What can we learn from his response (vs. 4, 9)? What do you believe most strongly influenced the people to have a “mind to work?” What would it look like if we each lived with a “mind to work” each today?
- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 4:10-14.** The people were overwhelmed by the enormity of the task and discouraged by all of the “rubble.” What preparations does Nehemiah make to continue with the building despite the threats? How does Nehemiah encourage the disappointed people (vs. 14)? How does God use the “rubble” from our own broken lives to rebuild us and those around us in His time?
- ▼ **Read Nehemiah 4:15-23.** What can this passage teach us about working together to accomplish God’s plan? What does this entire chapter teach us about who God is, how He works through his people, and his great redemption plan?

Live it Out

- ▼ What is one practice you can commit to this week in order to develop a stronger “mind to work” for all that God has asked of you?