

November 4, 2007

Series: Transforming Our World for God

Message: #5 "It Takes a Village"

Scripture: Nehemiah 3

Introduction

- Nehemiah 3 gives us a detailed account of forty crews working side by side in forty-five sections.
- Jewish people from every walk of life were helping with the project including women and children.
- This project was bigger than themselves.
- Nehemiah was an exceptional man with an exceptional message that galvanized a people to rebuild a wall.
- Nehemiah had a Holy discontent, Holy prayer, Holy nerve, Holy conviction, but he also had a **Holy Imagination**.
- **People with imagination see what other cannot see.**
- If we are going to galvanize people to rebuild the brokenness around them, we must see at least two things:

I. We must see the trouble we are in

- Return to chapter 2:17-78
- What did they see?
- Look at the trouble we are in (V.17)
 1. We have been deceived by the evil one.
 2. We have accepted our present condition of hopelessness.
- Can you see how far we are removed from the life God intended for us to have?
- Can you see the disgrace?
 1. Prophets had warned them to turn from their sin. (Jeremiah 44:8)
 2. They had accepted their condition of insult, scorn, shame.
 3. Nehemiah knew they needed to be brought out of their numbness.
- **THIS IS NOT THE WAY IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE.**
- What was God's design for all of his people?
 1. To live by God's Way (by His Word.)
 2. To care for others and ourselves.
 3. To let the world know - Jesus is the Answer to Life!

II. We must see the Hope that we have.

- Nehemiah was God's exceptional messenger for the time.
- He did what prophets do (V.17)
 1. They awaken the hope that lies resident, but covered underneath layers of fear and rejection and cynicism.
 2. Nehemiah gave them words they had long forgotten.
 3. Prophets also challenge the people to stand up against despair.
 4. Prophets also let people know - Hope must finally be about us and God - What

God can do!

- Here's the point: Nehemiah was helping people to **see again**, see God in their midst. A God who never quits and is always there.
- **Application:**
 1. We have been called to the same prophetic task as Nehemiah.
 2. We have been called to help people see the trouble we are in.
 3. We have been called to help people see the hope we have in Christ.

Conclusion

Will you commit today along with your pastor to help rebuild the walls of brokenness?