

SERMON TEXT: **NEHEMIAH 3:1-32**

COMPANION TEXT: **ROMANS 12:3-13**

Getting Started

After greeting one another, take a minute or two of silence together and offer an opening prayer.

Opening Question

What is one of the best gifts you have ever received for a birthday or special occasion?

- Share a little about the person or people who gave you the gift and about how it made you feel to receive it.

Purpose of This Week's Study

To consider and put to practical kingdom use the gifts and resources God has given to each of us.

INTRODUCTION TO THIS WEEK'S STUDY

If you've ever seen a building being constructed, you know that it takes many different skills and trades to build something successfully. Nehemiah 3 is a window into the diverse workforce it took to rebuild the walls and gates of Jerusalem after they had been destroyed. It took many different teams and people of many different gifts and talents, some of whom who were professionals, and most of whom who were not, to rebuild the city gates and walls.

In the same way, in the body of Christ, it takes every member, using their gifts and resources to build the kingdom of God.

In our study this week, we will look at some of the spiritual gifts and consider how we can start to use our gifts and our resources in practical ways to show love to one another and to the world.

Nehemiah 3

V	NIV	MSG
1	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.	The high priest Eliashib and his fellow priests were up and at it: They went to work on the Sheep Gate; they repaired it and hung its doors, continuing on as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel. The men of Jericho worked alongside them; and next to them, Zaccur son of Imri.
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.	The Fish Gate was built by the Hassenaah brothers; they repaired it, hung its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, worked; next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel; next to him Zadok son of Baana; and next to him the Tekoites (except for their nobles, who wouldn't work with their master and refused to get their hands dirty with such work).
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.[a]	
6	The Jeshanah[b] Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.	The Jeshanah Gate was rebuilt by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah; they repaired it, hung its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, and the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, which was under the rule of the governor from across the Euphrates, worked alongside them. Uzziel son of Harhaiah of the goldsmiths' guild worked next to him, and next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers. They rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.
7	Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah—Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth—places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates.	
8	Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.	
9	Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section.	The next section was worked on by Rephaiah son of Hur, mayor of a half-district of Jerusalem. Next to him Jedaiah son of Harumaph rebuilt the front of his house; Hattush son of Hashabneiah worked next to him.
10	Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him.	
11	Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens.	Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab rebuilt another section that included the Tower of Furnaces. Working next to him was Shallum son of Hallohesh, mayor of the other half-district of Jerusalem, along with his daughters.
12	Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.	
13	The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits[c] of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.	The Valley Gate was rebuilt by Hanun and villagers of Zanoah; they repaired it, hung its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. They went on to repair 1,500 feet of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate.

14	The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.	The Dung Gate itself was rebuilt by Malkijah son of Recab, the mayor of the district of Beth Hakkerem; he repaired it, hung its doors, and installed its bolts and bars.
15	The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam,[d] by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David.	The Fountain Gate was rebuilt by Shallun son of Col-Hozeh, mayor of the Mizpah district; he repaired it, roofed it, hung its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. He also rebuilt the wall of the Pool of Siloam at the King's Garden as far as the steps that go down from the City of David.
16	Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs[e] of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes.	After him came Nehemiah son of Azbuk, mayor of half the district of Beth Zur. He worked from just in front of the Tomb of David as far as the Pool and the House of Heroes.
17	Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district.	Levites under Rehum son of Bani were next in line. Alongside them, Hashabiah, mayor of half the district of Keilah, represented his district in the rebuilding. Next to him their brothers continued the rebuilding
18	Next to him, the repairs were made by their fellow Levites under Binnui[f] son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah.	under Binnui son of Henadad, mayor of the other half-district of Keilah.
19	Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle of the wall.	The section from in front of the Ascent to the Armory as far as the Angle was rebuilt by Ezer son of Jeshua, the mayor of Mizpah. From the Angle to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest was done by Baruch son of Zabbai. Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, took it from the door of Eliashib's house to the end of Eliashib's house. Priests from the neighborhood went on from there. Benjamin and Hasshub worked on the wall in front of their house, and Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, did the work alongside his house.
20	Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest.	
21	Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.	
22	The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region.	
23	Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house.	
24	Next to him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner,	
25	and Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the angle and the tower projecting from the upper palace near the court of the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh	The section from the house of Azariah to the Angle at the Corner was rebuilt by Binnui son of Henadad. Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the Angle and the tower that projects from the Upper Palace of the king near the Court of the Guard. Next to him Pedaiah son of Parosh and The Temple support staff who lived on the hill of Ophel worked up to the point opposite the Water Gate eastward and the projecting tower. The men of Tekoa did the section from the great projecting tower as far as the wall of Ophel.
26	and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower.	

27	Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel	
28	Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house	Above the Horse Gate the priests worked, each priest repairing the wall in front of his own house. After them Zadok son of Immer rebuilt in front of his house and after him Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate; then Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph; then Meshullam son of Berekiah rebuilt the wall in front of his storage shed.
29	Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shekaniah, the guard at the East Gate, made repairs.	
30	Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters	
31	Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the room above the corner;	Malkijah the goldsmith repaired the wall as far as the house of The Temple support staff and merchants, up to the Inspection Gate, and the Upper Room at the Corner. The goldsmiths and the merchants made the repairs between the Upper Room at the Corner and the Sheep Gate.
32	and between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.	

Romans 12:3013

V	NIV	MSG
3	For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 5 6 7 8	3 I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.
4	For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,	In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.
5	so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.	
6	We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith;	If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.
7	if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;	
8	if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.	
9	Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.	
10	Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.	Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.
11	Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.	Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.
12	Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.	
13	Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.	

For Reflection & Discussion

Feel free to use some or all of the questions below, depending on how much time you have, and on how much people share. There is no need to use all the questions if you sense God moving you and your group to focus more deeply on a smaller number of them.

- As you read Nehemiah 3 what stands out to you?
- The list of walls and gates being repaired starts with the Sheep Gate. Why is this significant?
 - [it may have signified their belief that God was with them, he still favoured them, he sent them Nehemiah as his instrument to heal & restore them]
 - Where do we need to begin when we get triggered, emotionally distressed, or fall into a sinful coping mechanism (what does that look like)?
 - [the starting point for restoration in our lives is in connecting or re-connecting to the Lord, who redeems, restores, rebuilds (what does this reconnecting look like?)]
 - What is the danger in reflecting too much on the brokenness?
How do you recognize what is the appropriate amount of looking back vs looking forward?
 - [what are some books on healing & restoration]
- Why is the list of people involved in rebuilding the walls important?
- What are some common ways we tend to think too highly of ourselves in our relationship to God?
 - What are some of the negative impacts of doing this this, both on ourselves and on others?
 - Sometimes, underestimating or undervaluing our own gifts, or being frozen by fear or perfectionism in employing them, can also be a way of thinking too highly of ourselves, for when we do this, we allow our own opinion of ourselves to take precedence over God's opinion of us.
 - Consider your own life and share with your group if you notice anything like this in yourself, and about how it impacts your ability to serve and love others with the gifts God has given you.
- Share some experiences from your own life of the body of Christ working together in unity.
 - What are some ways you've seen Christians with different gifts working together for the kingdom?
- Have you ever learned about your own spiritual gifts?
 - What did you discover about them?
- Based on Romans 12:6-8, which of the gifts listed in this passage do you think you might have (there may be more than one)?
 - How did you come to this conclusion?
 - What about other members of the group?
 - What gifts do you see in one another?
 - Take a few minutes to speak out and affirm those gifts in one another.
- Why do you think it's significant that Paul discusses love and honor right after talking about spiritual gifts?
 - What are some of the practical ways we can start right now to use our gifts to show love and honor to others and to partner with God to build his kingdom?
 - Are there things you're already doing to use your gifts for the kingdom?
- What is one way you sense God inviting you to stir up the zeal and spiritual fervor in yourself that Paul mentions in verse 11?

For Prayer Ministry

Take some time to reflect silently on the spiritual gifts and ask God to show you which gifts he wants to give or develop in you or others in the group. After waiting on the Lord, share any words, impressions, scriptures, or images he is showing you.

Spend time praying over one another that God would impart gifts and bless the spiritual gifts that each person has already been given. If there is a specific prayer request, be sure to pray and minister to those needs as well.

For Further Reflection & Action Outside of Group

- Learn more about spiritual gifts by reading 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 this week.
- Get involved in serving (at OCC, or in the city)