

“It Takes A Team!”

June 19, 2016

Core - Jesus never intended for us to live in isolation. He calls us to **partner together** to advance His Kingdom.

Nehemiah 1-13

- Nehemiah means “**the Lord comforts**”
- One of the most important Jewish leaders after the exile
- Cupbearer to the Persian king Artaxerxes
- He was mournful of the cities desolation. His mourning, prayers of petition and fasting gained him **favor** from the king to return to Jerusalem and **rebuild** the city (Nehemiah 1:3-4)
- Nehemiah enlisted all of the families to rebuild the wall
- The wall was built in 52 days!

1). **There is Power in Numbers**

- Let us arise and build - Involved everyone (Nehemiah 1:17-18)
- 1 Corinthians 3:9 (NIV) **9** For we are **co-workers** in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.
- Ephesians 4:16 (NIV) **16** From him the whole body, **joined** and held together by every **supporting** ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Application -

- We can work together by bringing our individual gifts and abilities to the table.
- You're not insignificant! You're essential to the team.

2). Expect Opposition

Jesus calls us from isolation to partnering together. But you can expect some opposition! The enemy hates our working together! He actually fears us!

- When faced with opposition from the enemy Nehemiah and the team consulted God through prayer. They saw the faithfulness of God!

Application -

- Don't be consumed with the enemies tactics.
- **Rehearse the faithfulness of God!**
- **Opposition and testing is an opportunity for growth and endurance (ask God what are you teaching me)**

3). We play both offense & defense

As we work together, we will build tougher and fight battles together. Like a contest we play both offense and defense.

- Men were stationed behind the wall, exposed places and within their families (Nehemiah 4:13)
- Those who were building, worked with one hand and carried a weapon in the other (Nehemiah 4:17).
- Despite the initial assessment of the city, threats from the enemy the team **remained consistent** in reconstruction.

Application -

- Just like Nehemiah had a vision to restore a desolated city, **we are called to restore and build the kingdom of God.** But as in the reconstruction of the wall **"All Hands On Deck"** is needed. **No one is left out, we are all essential!**

4). Team Work Makes the Dream Work! Ultimate Goal - Advance the Kingdom

- The wall was completed in 52 Days! All of their enemies knew that this project was done with the help of God (Nehemiah 6:15-16).

Application -

- All of our God given talents and individual **gifts are needed** in order to impact our community
- Use what is in your hands
- **The world is missing something when you are not living to your God given potential!**

Prayer:

We are called to partner together! All Hands On Deck is an urgent call! We are in a season where there is a sense of urgency in kingdom building. It's imperative that we remove any obstacles that hold us back. Some of us are being held back with the threat of failure in acting on our gifts that God has given us. Some of us are even holding back on sharing the gospel in fear of how you will be perceived in our current culture. ***But the Lord is saying that its "All Hands On Deck!"*** Get your gift in one hand and your defense (prayer and the word) in the other. Everyone, and every gift is needed for the assignment He has for our house and for the church at large. ***Don't miss out on this adventure!***