

WEEK FOUR

The Power of Partnership

Nehemiah 3:1-32

The Scholar's Corner: This chapter is a "topographical map" of 5th-century Jerusalem. The "Sheep Gate" (v. 1) is mentioned first—it's the gate where sacrifices were brought to the Temple. The phrase "next to him" (*'al-yado*) is used repeatedly to emphasize unity.

The Heart of the Matter: The work of God is for everyone. No one is too important to do the labor, and no one is too unskilled to help.

1. Leadership Leads the Way (v. 1)

The High Priest (Eliashib) is the first to start. Spiritual leaders must be the first to get their hands dirty.

2. A Diverse Workforce

The builders were everyday people: goldsmiths, perfume makers (v. 8), and even a district ruler's daughters (v. 12).

3. The "Next to Him" Principle

The wall was a continuous chain. A gap in one section made the whole city vulnerable. We are only as strong as our connection to those serving beside us.

4. Building "Opposite His House"

Nehemiah assigned people to the areas that affected them most directly. Proximity breeds passion.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God record the names of "unskilled" builders like perfume makers?
2. What does the "Tekoa Noble" spirit (v. 5) look like in the church today?
3. Are you building "opposite your own house"? What is your immediate sphere of influence?
4. How does "next to him" apply to our small groups?
5. Why is there no "sacred-secular divide" in this plan?