

***“A Willingness To Work!”***  
***Nehemiah 2:17-20***

**Introduction:**

1. When We Were Last In Nehemiah, We Learned “When God Works!”
  - When Things Seem So Small!
  - When Things Seem So Discouraging!
  - When Things Seem So Impossible!
  - This Is When God Begins To Work Big!
    - Nehemiah Seemed To Understand This! And Was Expecting Great Things From God Under The Impossible Situation He Discovered From His Midnight Mission In 2:17-20!
2. Another Lesson Nehemiah Learned Is That: God Uses His People To Accomplish His Purpose!
  - This Is Why He Had To “Turn Back” (2:15) – He Couldn’t Go Any Further Because He Couldn’t Do It All Himself!
  - And This Is Why God Uses Nehemiah To Call His People To Have “A Willingness To Work!”
    - In 2:17-20!
  - ***Do You Want To Watch God Work?***
    - ***Then You Need To Be Willing To Work!***
      - Just Like The People We Met In 2:20! It Didn’t Matter What Position In Society They Held, They Were ***All*** Called To Be Willing To Work!
        - And They Were! Learn From Our Text Tonight As Well As From 4:6, Upon Completion, “For The People Had A Mind To Work!”
3. Are You Going To Be Willing To Work & Serve?
  - As God Performs His Great Rebuilding Work! Will You Be Used By God & Useful To God? Or Will You Be Useless To God?
  - It Comes Down To A Willingness To Work!

**1. *You Must Be Willing To Work In Personal Cooperation!***

- 2:17 - “Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach!”
  - To Cooperate Means To Share Something In Common! **IE:** A “Co-op” Is An Organization Where People Pool Their Money & Resources, In Order To Share Things That They Need! Farmers / Fuel / Food Co-ops Are Everywhere! Are You Willing To Be Part Of A “Co-op” In The Lord’s Work?
  - Nehemiah Knew That He Couldn’t Do This Work / Project Of Rebuilding Of Both The Walls & The People Of Jerusalem Alone! So He Gathered The People Together, And Called Them To Cooperate In God’s Work!
- ***A Call To Share The Burden!***
  - “Ye See The Distress That We Are In!”
  - Their Condition Was One Of ***Distress!***
    - “Distress” - Misery & Calamity!
  - Things Were Not Fine! And They Knew It!
    - The Could See It With Their Own Eyes!
  - They Needed To Be Confronted With Their Condition!
    - And So Do We! This Is Why The Preaching Of God’s Word Is So Important – It Calls Us To “Wake Up” & See That Something Needs To Change!
    - Are We Satisfied With Our Condition?
  - We Need To Care About Our Condition!
    - “How Jerusalem Lieth Waste!”
    - Not Just The Walls – The City Itself! Shrunken!
  - To Be Willing To Work, We Must Share The Burden!
- ***A Call To Share The Costs!***
  - “Come, And Let Us Build!”
  - Their Condition Was One Of ***Disrepair!***

- And So Nehemiah Called Them / Even Commanded Them – “Come” – An Imperative – To:
- Make It Their Personal Priority! “Come!”
  - Isaiah 6:8 - “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me!”
- Make It Their Personal Project! “Build!”
  - Using Their Own Resources / Their Own Strength / Their Own Time!
- To Be Willing To Work, We Must Share The Costs!
  - And Make God’s Work Our Work!
- ***A Call To Share The Purpose!***
  - “That We Be No More A Reproach!”
  - Their Condition Was One Of ***Disgrace!***
    - “Reproach” - To Be Scorned & Made Ashamed!
      - Also In 1:3!
  - It Wasn’t Just God’s Project / People Reproached!
    - It Was God Himself!
  - David Explains This When Goliath Was Reproaching Israel!
    - 1 Samuel 17:26 / 45 / 29 - “Is there not a cause?”
  - There Is A Cause Here! Share In It! Join It!
    - The Glory Of God Is Why We Work & Serve!
- Are You Willing To Work?
  - Then Share The Burden! Share The Cost! Share The Purpose! Because There Is A Cause!

**2. *You Must Be Willing To Work With Commitment!***

- 2:18 - “Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king’s words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work!”
  - Nehemiah Explains The Commitment Of God To His People, Which Then Secured The Commitment Of The People To God!
- ***Focus On The Commitment Of God!***
  - This Is The Foundation Of Any Service / Work For God!
  - A Personal Commitment!
    - “My God!” – God Cares About The Condition Of His People & His Work! He Has Committed Himself & All His Resources To His People! Through Christ!
  - A Powerful Commitment!
    - “The Hand Of My God Which Was Good Upon Me!”
    - “Hand” - Symbol Of Strength / Power / Direction!
  - A Providential Commitment!
    - “Also The Kings Words!” (2:2, 4, 6)
    - God Made The Path Clear – No Matter What Stood In The Way – Even A King!
  - To Be Willing To Work, We Must Focus On The Commitment Of God! To Us! To His Work!
    - Believe / Trust Him!
    - Romans 8:31 - “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”
- ***Focus On Your Commitment To God!***
  - Never Forget That God Has Committed Himself To You!
  - In Your Own Condition Of Distress!
    - He Committed Unto You His Own Son, Jesus!
    - Romans 5:8 - “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!”
  - In Your Own Condition Of Disrepair!
    - Philippians 1:6 - “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!”
  - In Your Own Condition Of Disgrace!
    - Romans 8:35 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

- Doesn't God Now Deserve Your Complete Commitment To Him?
  - Confidence In The Lord Will Cause You To Commit To The Lord!
- Commitment To God Requires A Response!
  - Both In Attitude (Rise Up) & Action (Build)!
  - "And They Said, Let Us Rise Up And Build!"
  - **Attitude** - How Committed Are You To God's Work? Are You Willing **To** Work? Will God's Will / Word / Work **Stir You Up** Like It Did Back Then?
  - **Action** - Will You Work? Getting Your Hands Dirty In The Work Of The Lord! For Them, Rebuilding Walls! For Us, Rebuilding Lives! Finding & Fulfilling Needs!
  - How Will You Respond?
- Commitment To God Requires A Readiness!
  - "So They Strengthened Their Hands For The Good Work!"
  - **IE**: They Didn't Literally "Hit The Gym" - No, They Made The Necessary Preparations For The Work That They Were Willing To Do!
  - How Will You Get Ready?
    - Spiritual Gym! Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching!"
  - Preparation Shows Commitment! **IE**: Sports Practices!
- There Is No Better Work Than God's Work!
  - It **Is** The "Good Work!"
  - Are You Willing To Work? Than Be Committed To His Work! Because God Has Committed Himself To You!

### 3. ***You Must Be Willing To Work With Conviction!***

- 2:19-20 - "But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king? / Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore will his servants will arise and build; but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem!"
  - Once Again, We Meet Up With The Opposition! Another One Is Added: Geshem The Arabian!
  - Now, They Were Surrounded!
    - Don't Just Need Commitment – But Conviction!
- ***The Resistance Is Strong!***
  - Are You Willing To Work With Conviction?
  - They Will Listen To What's Going On!
  - They Will Laugh At What's Going On!
  - They Will Look At What's Going On!
    - And "Despise" You - Look Down On You & Your Work / Efforts!
    - Sometimes Even Those Who Seem Like They Should Be On Your Side! Like "Tobiah" The Traitor
  - They Will Even Lie About What's Going On!
    - Make False Accusations!
  - Be Prepared & Willing To Work With Conviction!
    - Because "We Are Not Ignorant Of [The Devil's] Devices!" (2 Corinthians 2:11)
    - Remember The Lord's Promise In Matthew 5:10-12 - "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. / Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. / Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you!"
- ***Your Resolve Must Be Strong!***
  - And You Must Be Willing To Work With Conviction!
  - Rely Upon Your Savior!
    - Like Nehemiah Did! "The God Of Heaven, He Will Prosper Us!"

- He Has All The Power We Need!
- He Has All The Provisions We Need!
- “He Will Prosper Us!”
- This Is How We Must Answer Our Resistance!
- Resolve To Serve!
  - No Matter What!
  - “Therefore We His Servants *Will* Arise And Build!”
  - We Are His Servants! We Will Trust & Obey!
- Refuse Their Schemes!
  - The World Has No Right To Interfere In God’s Work! “No Portion / Nor Right / Nor Memorial!”
    - They Think They Do! Christians Are Starting To Think They Do To! That Is Why They Do Surveys Of The Community Before Starting A Church – “What Kind Of Church Do *You* Want?” Instead Of “What Kind Of Church Does *God* Want?” This Is Why There Are Now Even “Cowboy Churches!”
- The Church Is God’s Work – Not Man’s!
  - We Need To Join His Work, And Not The Other Way Around!

**Conclusion:**

1. Are You Willing To Work?
  - Then Work With Conviction!
  - Don’t Let The World Distract You!
  - Because When You Are Willing To Work In This Way:
    - In Cooperation! With Commitment! With Conviction!
  - You Will Soon Watch God Work!
    - Both In You & Through You!
    - To Rebuild His People! To Rebuild His Church!

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