



Build Something Ps. Jim Critcher

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- First thing we see in the Bible is God speaking by which He made nothing into something – He didn't have to speak or act
- God speaks as expression of his nature
- God also CREATES as an expression of his nature
 - In creating, He started with nothing
 - Yet out of nothing, He created
 - And a residue of this nature is resident in us – there is something of the divine in each of us
 - Made in the image of God, we too bear the capacity for creative action, to make something.
- As we reflect on the year, we can see that are "busy" – yet we need to consider both WHAT and HOW we are building
 - There is a lot of life aimed at "managing" and that's very different from "creating"
 - There is something in us that longs to reach beyond management to being creative, to express God's divine nature in our lives by creating

- Managing can lead us to be re-active rather than pro-active; too often management doesn't require the divine; we can manage on our own strength
- Such reflection shouldn't condemn, but convict us to something more

1. Consider the walls - Nehemiah 1:3-7

- In this day, our walls have been "breached"
- Its one thing to be emotionally impacted; another to be moved to pray for days.
 - Nehemiah prayed beyond himself – he confessed both his sin and those of the people he was a part of.
- Walls geographically define what belongs to us. In ancient times, walls delineated more than property lines
 - Walls symbolized the pride, the identity of a people
 - Walls defined their protection
 - Walls defined the people who live within them
- Walls are designed to keep the good things in and the bad things out
 - Where there is a breach, the enemy will find it & come in
 - When moral & spiritual walls are broken down in a culture, "things" come in
 - Legislative "walls" cannot replace the moral character of the individuals in a society – it can never be a replacement to a moral/spiritual wall in individual lives.
 - "We've acted wickedly...we've not obeyed the laws You gave..."
- What is the condition of our personal walls? We are to have walls around our lives. We are to be restorers of the wall.
 - Do you know where your walls have been broken down; where they are weak; where the 'low places' are in your wall?
 - What have breached our walls individually that need to be run out
 - Unless we have the closed up the access points into our lives, the enemy will be back

2. Clarity - your part? - Nehemiah 3

- On the wall were people building where they were assigned, regardless of what they thought they had to build with.
 - We are to bring what we have and learn to use skills we don't have not in order to build.
 - What is the part am I to play in the repair of the wall
- We must learn to adapt and develop our "gift set" for the purpose of building up the house
 - Even if my gift doesn't appear to be effective, it needs to be developed and utilized in faith
- Three phases of building:
- **Commencement** - Nehemiah [2:18](#) - "so they began ... "

- We need to get started
- * **Construction** - Nehemiah [4:21](#) - "so we continued ... "
 - The building went on through out the day time.
 - Often we can find a reason why its not the "right moment" to be working
 - We need to finish the work we've started; we need to finish what we have started
 - Discouragement, lack of strength, distraction – we need to finish what we've started & overcome the resistance
- * **Completion** - Nehemiah [6:15-16](#) - "so the wall was completed ... "
 - Our enemies are overcome when we finish; when the work is completed, when the thing we've begun is brought to completion, the enemy is undone – one of the most powerful weapons of our warfare.
 - "Finish" brings blessing; Moses [EX 39] blessed the work on the tabernacle when it was completed & inspected – blessing is brought with completion
 - "Well done..." – you ran the race & finished well.

3. Clutter, rubble and condemnation - Nehemiah 4:2,10 – the original walls were burned when the city had been destroyed. The burned stone reflected the past with its failure, rebellion, & defeat.

- Are you building with the clutter & rubble of your past?
- We've all been burned; we've all been effected by the fire of circumstance & relational injury. The stones were burned; but it is God's purpose to take the burned stones of the past and turn them into building blocks for building His temple
- Nothing new can be built unless we move beyond the failures of the past – disappointments, offences, difficulties, failures.
- We are called to draw near **looking BEYOND the past** - Hebrews [10:19-23](#)
- **Establishing a FIRM foundation** - 1Corinthians [3:11-15](#)

4. Conflict - Nehemiah 4:1,6-8,11-12

- As we commence with building in our lives, the plotting, effort, & energy of the enemy will intensify
- The conflict is not only from without, but from within – from those who are in our lives
- We need to get the right people in our lives and be sure "whose report we will believe"
- When you hear the call to work together, **JOIN US THERE!** - Nehemiah [4:19-20](#)
 - Too many of us are trying to fight on our own
 - We cannot regard participation on Sunday as our one point of contact with the church

- The church is to be dynamic, energizing by our being together, fighting for one another
- The trumpet being blown is the sound of prophetic and the prophetic is saying to us “be together in agreement” and God will fight for us.
 - We are spread out on the wall here in NOVA. As such there needs to be a prophetic blast that causes us to resonate with a sound that pulls us together
 - We are not called to war by ourselves – its not what God intends
 - We need to fight together; we need to build together – and if we will gather together and God will fight for us.

5. Cooperation - Ephesians [2:19-22](#) – we are not to fight alone nor BUILD alone

6. Consecration - 1Chronicles 29:5 – who is willing set themselves apart to God

- **Set apart** - Ephesians 2:4-6 – we are not promised to “have it all”; we are set apart to a principle of “exchange” – that we are continually taking what we have, set it apart to God and He exchanges ours with His.
- In being set apart to Him, being consecrated to His purpose (which He has done on our behalf) necessitates that we consecrate ourselves.
- If we’re ever going to build anything it will be as we are “set a part to Him”
- What part of my life will I set apart for Christ?
 - What we give up is nothing compared to what God will give to us by exchange.
- What has been given to God in our lives? Is there **room in "your house"?** - 2Kings 4 - The Shunamite
- **1Peter 3:15 – “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.”**
- What part of the wall will I build on? What part of the wall am I going to build on this year?