

They Had a Mind To Work

- I. Work Camp a couple of weeks ago was full of hard work.
 - a. Scraping, painting, cleaning, touching up, moving ladders, etc.
 - b. Work Camp is a great time to use our abilities and be an example of service.
 - c. However, we don't need to see single projects as FULFILLING our service to God!
 - i. It is A part of fulfilling our service, but there is more to do!
- II. Why We Don't Do More
 - a. "It's not my job."
 - b. "It's not my problem."
 - c. "I do enough already."
 - i. Eph 2:8-10 – Is it a good work? THAT'S why he saved you!
 - ii. II Cor 5:21 – The One who knew no sin BECAME sin for us...
 - iii. Luke 17:10 – When you've done ALL you were commanded...
- III. Nehemiah
 - a. The events of Neh 2 happened in 445 B.C.
 - b. Was cupbearer to Artaxerxes (Persia)
 - i. The servants' responsibility to please the king (punishable by death!).
 - ii. Nehemiah's heartache – the destroyed city of God.
 - iii. Background – Many Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem when Cyrus reigned (538 B.C.)—They had been back for over 90 yrs!
- IV. Surveying the Work (2:11-16)
 - a. This sounds familiar!
 - b. He went around to see what work needed to be done (Not telling anyone what he was about to do).
 - c. He came up with a plan, told it to the city officials, and they came to the same conclusion:
 - i. "Let us rise up and build!"
- V. Each one had work to do!
 - a. Chapter 3 lists several site leaders and the work their groups did—no small task!
 - i. v. 13 – Repaired 1000 cubits (over ¼ mile)!
 - b. But, as we faced this week, there was opposition.
 - i. We fought wasps and heat, but they fought:
 - 1. Ridicule from foreigners who still lived around: 4:2ff
 - 2. Discouragement: 4:10
 - 3. Threats of war: 4:11
 - 4. BUT THEY WORKED ANYWAY!
 - c. 4:6 – It was quickly halfway done, because "They had a mind to work."
- VI. Our service is not even close to being finished.
 - a. We have many things we must do to:
 - b. Seek and save those who are lost – Mt 20:25

- c. Help those who are in need – Gal 6:10
 - d. Encourage those who are weak – Heb 10:24-25
- VII. How did they do it?
- a. Prayer
 - i. I don't know why we overlook this!!
 - ii. Nehemiah – Half of chap. 1; 2:4; 4:4;
 - iii. This is a book FULL of action—yet they stop to pray?
 - 1. WRONG – Prayer IS action, and it brings about God's action!
 - b. Each one built next to his house (3:28)
 - i. One way to make sure someone builds a wall up to correct standards is to make them build what will protect them!
 - ii. One way to take responsibility for your work is to realize that you will either reap the benefits or consequences for it!
 - 1. You can help clean up your school (trash, language, etc.)!
 - 2. You can help build your youth group!
 - 3. You can help keep your youth group faithful!
 - iii. If every Christian “built next to his house,” this whole world would be built as a house of God!
 - c. Half with weapons, half with tools
 - i. Like any work, it could not have been finished without splitting responsibility.
 - 1. Work Camp – Some held ladders, some delivered food, etc.
 - 2. Work Days Here – Some change bulbs, some clean, etc.
 - ii. They had some to hold weapons and armor, and others to work.
 - iii. Thus they could still get things done AND be protected from the threats they faced!
 - 1. Eph 4:11-12; 6:10-11
- VIII. They Finished the Work in 52 Days
- a. Rebuilding the wall around an entire city in less than two months is an achievement even today! Here is why it worked again:
 - i. “The people had a mind to work.”
 - 1. They quit using excuses.
 - 2. They quit being selfish and helped others.
 - 3. They quit waiting for someone else to do it.
 - 4. THEY WORKED TOGETHER (Gen 11:6)
- IX. Conclusion. Beginning this afternoon,
- a. Let's go home...
 - b. Let's get to work...
 - c. Let's save souls...
 - d. Let's encourage the week...
 - e. Let's go to heaven...
- TOGETHER!