



Sermon Preached September 8th 2019
“A Builder Sees More Than Stones”

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: A builder sees.

I. A builder sees the ruin. Nehemiah 2:11-13

II. A builder sees God’s gracious hand. Nehemiah 2:18

III. A builder sees the good work people have done. Nehemiah 3:10

GETTING STARTED

1. What major point from the sermon stood out to you as particularly helpful? Why?

DIRECTOR’S CUT

“A City For the Messiah”

In our sermon series we have been looking at timeless principles of leadership by looking at how Nehemiah led with passion and prayer. However, we should not miss the book’s role in the redemptive story of mankind. The rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls has a larger part in the meta-narrative of Scripture. Nehemiah and the people may not have realized this but they were building Jerusalem because Jerusalem was central to God’s plan of salvation. They are building the city that the messiah would come and do ministry. Many of the prophecies concerning the messiah need to be fulfilled in Jerusalem. (c.f. Haggai 2:7-9; Matthew 23:37-39; Psalm 118:26; Zechariah 9:9; Isaiah 62:11-12) Jerusalem is the city where Jesus was dedicated, taught the teachers of the law, cleansed the temple, instituted the Last Supper, was betrayed, crucified and rose from the grave. The Jews during Nehemiah’s time may not have realized it but they were rebuilding Jerusalem for the messiah.

Scriptures tell us we are a part of a building project too! Jesus said that he was going to build his church. (Matt. 16:18) The Apostle Paul says we are building on the foundation of Jesus. (1 Cor. 3:10-11) The Apostle Peter says that we are living stones being built together into a household for God. (1 Peter 2:4-6) The author of Hebrews tells us that we are a part of a heavenly Jerusalem! (Hebrews 12:22) We are indeed a part of an everlasting building project. The architect is God and we are his living stones being formed into a heavenly Jerusalem. It should not surprise that the Bride of Christ is called Jerusalem by the Apostle John. (Rev. 21:9-10) We are the dwelling place for God.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. According to Hebrews 12:22, what city are you a part of? Have you ever thought of yourself as being a bona fide citizen of this amazing city?
2. When the Apostle John sees the Bride of the Lamb what does he see? (Revelation 21:9-10) What does this tell us about who we are?
3. In what ways are you actively building Jerusalem?
4. What does it mean that we are God’s dwelling? (1 Corinthians 3:16)