

How God's Work Gets Done

You might have heard the saying that there is no I in the word team. We have just finished watching the Olympics and now our attention turns towards football and the upcoming baseball playoffs. The successful teams always work together. Thus the saying there is no I in the word team. You can't be focused upon yourself you have to be focused on doing your part for the team.

Did you know that is how God's work gets accomplished? Consider the Old Testament book of Nehemiah. This book contains the story of Nehemiah rallying the people of Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and gates. They did this in a miraculous time of 52 days! Most people only read the first chapter of Nehemiah as it tells how God moved his heart and the heart of the king to help rebuild the walls. Yet in chapter three amidst a bunch of Hebrew names none of us can pronounce there is an amazing story.

Chapter three of Nehemiah lists all the families, priests and other who worked section by section to rebuild the walls and the gates. Tucked into this chapter is one amazing phrase that illustrates the team concept of work. It is the phrase, **next to him** or sometimes, **next to them**. Those two phrases are found seventeen times in the chapter. That is the key to how the wall was erected in 52 days.

That phrase reminds me of the New Testament phrase that Paul used when talking about the work of the body of Christ. He talked about, "**each part doing its work.**" So the Church when we work side by side, each doing its part can accomplish incredible things.

As we take up the offering this morning I want you to realize that all our gifts matter. What all of us give together is greater than what a few can give. Small and large gifts when given in obedience to God matter. Your gift and the gift next to you and the one next to them together helps us build and maintain the wall God has called for us.

So, let's each do our part for the work of God. That is how God's work gets done!