

SERVANTHOOD

W E E K 0 3

3 REBUILDING THE WALLS

The high priest Eliashib and his fellow priests began rebuilding the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and installed its doors. After building the wall to the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel, they dedicated it. ² The men of Jericho built next to Eliashib, and next to them Zaccur son of Imri built.

FISH GATE

³ The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They built it with beams and installed its doors, bolts, and bars. ⁴ Next to them Meremoth son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz, made repairs. Beside them Meshullam son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok son of Baana made repairs. ⁵ Beside them the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not lift a finger to help their supervisors.

OLD GATE, BROAD WALL, AND TOWER OF THE OVENS

⁶ Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate. They built it with beams and installed its doors, bolts, and bars. ⁷ Next to them the repairs were done by Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, and the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, who were under the authority of the governor of the region west of the Euphrates River. ⁸ After him Uzziel son of Harhaiah, the goldsmith, made repairs, and next to him Hananiah son of the perfumer made repairs. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹ Next to them Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. ¹⁰ After them Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs across from his house. Next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs. ¹¹ Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab made repairs to another section, as well as to the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Beside him Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs—he and his daughters.

VALLEY GATE, DUNG GATE, AND FOUNTAIN GATE

¹³ Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and installed its doors, bolts, and bars, and repaired five hundred yards of the wall to the Dung Gate. ¹⁴ Malchijah son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and installed its doors, bolts, and bars.

¹⁵ Shallun son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it and roofed it. Then he installed its doors, bolts, and bars. He also made repairs to the wall of the Pool of Shelah near the king's garden, as far as the stairs that descend from the city of David.

¹⁶ After him Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of half the district of Beth-zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Warriors. ¹⁷ Next to him the Levites made repairs under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district. ¹⁸ After him their fellow Levites made repairs under Binnui son of Henadad, ruler of half the district of Keilah. ¹⁹ Next to him Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, made repairs to another section opposite the ascent to the armory at the Angle.

THE ANGLE, WATER GATE, AND TOWER ON OPHEL

²⁰ After him Baruch son of Zabbai diligently repaired another section, from the Angle to the door of the house of the high priest Eliashib. ²¹ Beside him Meremoth son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz, made repairs to another section, from the door of Eliashib's house to the end of his house. ²² And next to him the priests from the surrounding area made repairs.

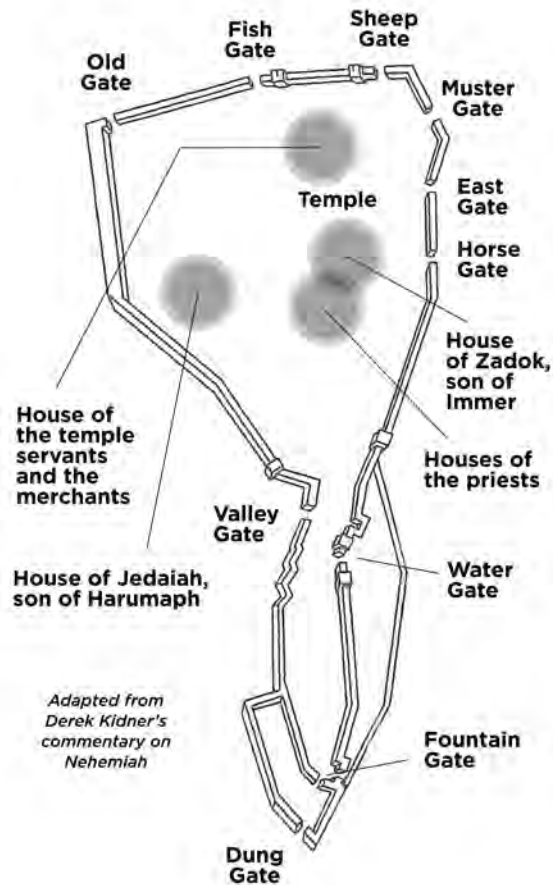
²³ After them Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house. Beside them Azariah son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. ²⁴ After him Binnui son of Henadad made repairs to another section, from the house of Azariah to the Angle and the corner. ²⁵ Palal son of Uzai made repairs opposite the Angle and tower that juts out from the king's upper palace, by the courtyard of the guard. Beside him Pedaiah son of Parosh ²⁶ and the temple servants living on Ophel made repairs opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the tower that juts out. ²⁷ Next to him the Tekoites made repairs to another section from a point opposite the great tower that juts out, as far as the wall of Ophel.

HORSE GATE, INSPECTION GATE, AND SHEEP GATE

²⁸ Each of the priests made repairs above the Horse Gate, each opposite his own house. ²⁹ After them Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. And beside him Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, guard of the East Gate, made repairs. ³⁰ Next to him Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph made repairs to another section.

After them Meshullam son of Berechiah made repairs opposite his room. ³¹ Next to him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs to the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the upstairs room on the corner. ³² The goldsmiths and merchants made repairs between the upstairs room on the corner and the Sheep Gate.

SERMON NOTES



*Adapted from
Derek Kidner's
commentary on
Nehemiah*

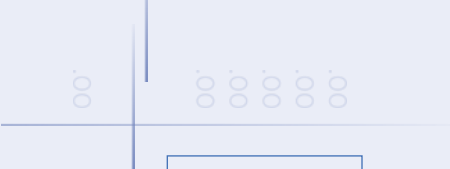
THINK BIG

Serve God
Serve the vision
Serve the future

AND
AND
AND

ACT SMALL

Serve people
Serve the team
Serve today



LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

RHYTHM REMINDER



Serve the
Community

LEAN IN

What's one way you've seen someone "lead by serving" that made a lasting impression on you? _____

LOOK DOWN

In Nehemiah 3, a lot of different people and roles are listed. Why do you think the author takes time to list all the names and roles? _____

LOOK OUT

How do people in our culture define greatness—and how is servant leadership a radical contrast? _____

LOOK IN

When you think about servant leadership, does it feel natural, challenging, or draining for you? Why? _____

WEEK 3

IF I HAD MORE TIME

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

CHERYL BACHELDER



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**LISTEN TO
THIS WEEK'S
EPISODE
HERE**



Success didn't teach me much—but a good smack in the head, a good failure, will leave you with some very memorable lessons.”

CHERYL BACHELDER was the CEO of Popeyes Industry during the turnaround years. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Chick-fil-A and as a board member of WorkMatters, a ministry focused on helping Christian leaders discover the sacredness of their work. She also authored the leadership book *Dare to Serve*.

Burden, Belief, and Rebuilding a Life in Christ

Once, Preston found himself incarcerated and hopeless. His life was seemingly shattered; he could not secure a job and lost many of his friends. Yet today, after being released by the grace of God, he serves with the prison ministry at Mariners.

"I was arrested, falsely accused of a crime, and was looking at 130 years in prison and half a million dollars in fines," Preston says of what transpired when he was living in Minnesota 10 years ago.

"It was the worst; a place of complete hopelessness and condemnation," Preston recalls of his time behind bars.

"Whatever you see in the movies, it's way worse. People fight over toilet paper rolls because they want to use them for pillows. I saw people dying within a few feet of me. I was in tiny holding cells. Finally, I was placed in a cell with 15 people. My first night, I didn't sleep because the guy in the cot next to me was twisting, contorting, and groaning like he was possessed. But God used that guy, who was going through withdrawals, to mold my heart where I would really care about the lost and broken in this world."

Prosecutors decided not to charge Preston with any crime and his arrest was expunged from his record. He felt led to serve incarcerated people and their families,

and now helps lead Hope Events four times a year (Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, and Christmas) with Mariners through a partnership with Prison Fellowship. During these outreaches, prisoners pray with volunteers, worship together, and hear the good news of Jesus. At the end of each worship service, prisoners have the opportunity to say "I Believe" and put their trust in Jesus. Just as Nehemiah was deeply burdened for Jerusalem and his people, Preston serves with the Prison Ministry to share God's love and point people to the hope found only in Jesus. "In the darkest times, I thought life was over, and I wanted to die. That's when I got closer to God," he recollects.

With the story of his own incarceration and God's ability to rebuild a rich, fruitful life from rubble, he encourages those he serves to look to the Lord rather than their circumstances. "My chains broke; my spirit did not. I only became stronger. And I only became stronger because I became closer to God. And both He and I refuse to let my pain go to waste. You can either have your pain and suffering break you without God, or you can have your pain and suffering make you unbreakable with God. The choice is yours."



Yachad

Original Artwork by Cedric Dennis

by Michele Wilbert

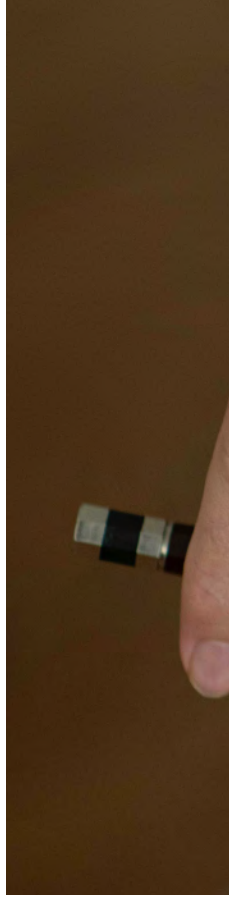
What Nehemiah Teaches Us About Serving



COVID eliminated any type of hurry in my life. Suddenly, no more meetings to attend, sports practices to shuttle my son to and from, or even school. The only problem was that I could not unhurry my mind. Suddenly, I had all this time to think.

My life had been so full for so long that I barely remembered what daydreaming or thinking was like unless it was scheduled. It was great until all these ideas decided to fill my head each night at 1a. I prayed, I praised, I made notes on my phone, and wondered what God was asking me to do in this season. I pleaded with God to show me. How was I going to continue to serve God?

Our family started watching Mariners Online. We jumped into a Rooted group, took Deep Dive courses, and I joined an online Bible study.





We felt connected, but I didn't love that we were primarily consuming and not serving. One Saturday, our family took a fly-fishing class for the day to escape the heat and boredom after weeks of not doing much. On the walk down to the river, my senses came alive to the smells of the trees, the sounds of the birds, and the cool water around my feet. Following the directions of our instructor, my mind was fully engaged with what I needed to do in that moment to cast. I was aware of my surroundings, the flow of the river, and what my hands needed to do to complete a proper cast.

With the rhythmic motion of casting, hours had gone by without realization, and my hurried mind quieted. I was still. I was listening. No longer bombarding God with all my questions, my heart rested right where I was in that river. In that quiet way the Spirit often speaks to us, I knew God was asking me to serve right where I was—online. But wait, God, how?

In the book of Nehemiah, God gives us a glimpse of a leader who served right where God had placed him. Nehemiah was concerned for the people of Jerusalem. Without a city wall, they were not protected. Nehemiah recognized a need. Nehemiah wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed. He went to God first. He then met with the king and was given favor to rebuild the wall.

In Nehemiah chapter three, it details each person's name and the repairs that are made outside their own homes. Four times we read that some people worked on the section of the wall that was "opposite" or "in front of" their own houses (v. 10, 28-30). I wonder if Nehemiah knew that they would take even greater care of rebuilding the wall because it was outside of their own homes? People used whatever their skills were, like goldsmiths and merchants, and entire families worked together to repair the wall.

One way God gives me great joy is when I am able to connect women to opportunities to use their gifts and to serve right where they are in their particular season of life. I love those conversations, and they seem to go something like this: "Maybe one day I could do that," or "I think I am a little too old to do that," or the most common is, "I really don't think I am qualified." We don't always see an invitation over for coffee as serving God, but sometimes serving God is simply doing that. Somehow in the season of COVID, I needed Nehemiah's reminder myself. In the past, I have missed opportunities to serve God because I thought I needed to go somewhere else for God or I needed to make a bigger impact. When a need came up to serve online even though I didn't feel qualified, I already knew God was asking me to serve right where He had placed me in that season, alongside women He had connected with me online.

A.W. Tozer writes this about God:

"God is always nearer than you can imagine Him to be. God is so near that your thoughts are not as near as God; your breath is not as near as God; your very soul is not as near to you as God is."

If the all-knowing, almighty, all-sufficient, powerful God we serve is right here with us, why wouldn't I want to join Him? As we abide in Him and walk closely with Him, we get the joy of serving God, taking the gospel wherever He has placed us.



