**The Workman and His Task**

*Nehemiah 3:1-32*

Principles on how Nehemiah rallied the people to accomplish the task

**I. He used many people and many skill sets**

A. Including but not limited to their normal job(s)

B. Empowering each to contribute their share

**1 Corinthians 12:12-16**—For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. **13**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. **14**For the body is not one member, but many. **15**If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. **16**And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

**1 Corinthians 12:20-21**—*But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”*

**II. He divided the work in manageable portions**

A. Mindful, there are obstacles that can thwart the work

1. Underestimation

2. Procrastination

3. Boredom

4. Lack of focus

B. Christ is our supreme example

**Ephesians 4:7-16**—*But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men.” (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

**III. He allocated resources wisely**

A. He knew the value others would place on work close to their home and family

B. He intentionally asked others to help

**IV. He thanked and honored those who served**

**Several ways to apply these principles:**

1. God never intends us to be lone rangers. He calls us to community and we are better for it.

2. In whatever task we are given (including leadership roles), we are called to please Him and accomplish His objectives and goals. The wall was significant only because it was part of God’s will and plan for His people. Focus on the right objectives and don’t be distracted with lesser things.

3. It’s easy to think that you can do it alone or without help. In leadership, the together portion cannot be underestimated. Delegate manageable portions and sincerely thank them for their contribution.

4. When the Lord’s will is at the center of the process, everyone should be involved, even if there are differences or the leader is less than perfect.

5. If God is directing you, oftentimes the task is not what you would do, but out of obedience, must be done.

6. Whatever role you play in the process (leader or follower), rejoice that God’s will is being accomplished together; we get the glorious opportunity to participate in God’s grand plan.