

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 4 15-23



Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; guide me,
and lead me for your name's sake.

Psalm 31:3

Praising:

Lord, in all our doings guide us;
pride and hate shall ne'er divide
us;
we'll go on with thee beside us,
and with joy we'll persevere.

Reading:

Nehemiah 4:15-23
The Jews realise the danger

News reaches the Jews' opponents, that their scheme to halt the restoration project has been exposed and that God is the one who has undermined it. With the alert now raised, Nehemiah leaves nothing to chance. Nehemiah's own servants divide into a team of builders and a team of heavily armed security-guards. While the lead builders carry swords, the fetchers and carriers work one-handed, leaving their other hand always

free to defend themselves. Forced to work at intervals along the wall, the Jews are under instruction to run to the sound of the trumpet – and to trust that God will come to their aid should they have to face their foes directly. As if these precautions aren't enough, Nehemiah instructs his team not to leave after they have finished their day's work. They are to sleep on site.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord give us faith to pray, and wisdom to act

- that we may pray as though it all depends on you, trusting and hoping in your provision
- that we may act as though it all depends on us, working and preparing come what may
- that whichever we find harder, we may not neglect prayer for action or action for prayer

Father: fill in my gaps, make up my shortfall, remember my oversights. For without you my best isn't good enough, and with you my best is an offering to Christ's honour and glory. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 14 September 2016