

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 7 1-7a



Unless the Lord keeps the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.
Psalm 127:2

Praising:

Lord be my guardian and my
guide,
be near me when I call;
uphold me when my footsteps
slide,
and hold me lest I fall.

Reading:

Nehemiah 7:1-7a
Nehemiah sets up the guard

The finishing touches to the walls are its doors and gatekeepers. Nehemiah also remembers the spiritual formalities, mentioning the appointment of the choir and some priests. Once all these are in place, Nehemiah passes on the informal authority he has been wielding up to this point to Hanania his brother and to Hananiah the God-fearing military commander of the city fortress. Nehemiah charges them only to

open the gates from sunrise to sunset. Although the walls are complete, the houses within the city are not. For reasons that will become clear (tomorrow!), Nehemiah senses God prompting him to assemble the various groups of people to be enrolled in the city according to genealogy. He then reads from the lists of those who were the first to return from exile in Babylonia (names identical to Ezra chapter 2).

Listening:

Praying:

We pray Lord for humility always to remember you

- to acknowledge you at the beginning and end of everything we do and be grateful
- to make provision for worship, to create a space for praise and for prayer
- to look for leaders who follow you, love you and listen for your voice

Father: thank you that having called me to a task, you walk me to the end of it. And then, having made it plain that my work is done, thank you for raising up someone to come after me.
Amen

Doing:

Friday, 23 September 2016