

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 3 1-12



I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
And now your feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Psalm 122:1-2

Praising:

Christ is our corner-stone,
on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone
the courts of heaven are filled:
on his great love our hopes we
place
of present grace and joys above.

Reading:

Nehemiah 3:1-12
Those who will and those who
won't

Nehemiah's list of works begins.
He carefully names everyone
who steps up to get their hands
dirty, beginning with the high
priest Eliashib and his fellow
priests at the Sheep Gate. Not
only do they reconstruct the gate
but they consecrate it. In asking
God to bless this first landmark in
the project, they are effectively
dedicating the whole undertaking

to God. This section of the list
ends with another notable
personality called Shallum
mucking in. It also mentions that
Shallum's daughters lend a hand.
Goldsmiths and perfumers do
their bit, but perhaps the
reference that stands out most of
all is where Nehemiah mentions
the nobles of the Tekoites.
Willingness has been forthcoming
from all ranks of community
leaders. But the upper class
families of this one ethnic group
are singled out solemnly for not
showing active support.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we reflect on the things we
should have done for you but
haven't

- the tasks we keep putting off
in order to do other things
instead
- the tasks we're nervous of
because we think we can't do
them
- the tasks we feel are beneath
our dignity, that our pride
won't lower us to do

Father: you are waiting to help
me tackle the hard things, ready
to walk with me as I grit my teeth
and face my fears. Yet still I stop
short of taking up my cross and
following Christ. Amen

Doing: