

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 3 13-22



Jerusalem, built as a city that is at unity in itself.
Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
Psalm 122:3-4

Praising:

Blessed city, heavenly Salem,
vision dear of peace and love,
who, of living stones upbuilt,
are the joy of heaven above:
we, with all thy holy people,
glorious to thy glory move.

Reading:

Nehemiah 3:13-22
The community does its part

The names of the great and the good of Jerusalem roll on, as Nehemiah charts progress beginning with the Valley Gate, the Dung Gate and the Fountain Gate. Many are local rulers of districts or half districts, people of power and authority used to giving orders. Nehemiah implies that they all get actively involved on the ground with the detailed repair of their section. For a second time he mentions priests

doing their part. The picture Nehemiah gives, is of a community pulling together. Individually they take responsibility for the portion of the task that falls to them, but collectively they are demonstrating a commitment to the whole city which is in every sense their spiritual home. The walls and gates are important, but also important enough to be mentioned are two pools, a graveyard and a military barracks.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord bless us in whatever share of your work falls to us

- if it's appealing or pleasurable, grant us humility and a readiness to give you the glory
- if it's mundane or unglamorous, grant us perseverance and a joy in serving you
- if it's frustrating or infuriating, grant us charity and a delight in giving to our family

Father: sometimes I feel the value of what I do for Christ, sometimes I don't. Yet however lowly and minor my role, you couldn't do it without me, and I couldn't do it without you. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 09 September 2016