

Sermon Discussion Questions | October 2, 2016

Sermon Series: Building the Church, Pastor Bob Hopper Nehemiah 3, Luke 9:57-62

1. Review: What did you learn about Nehemiah, yourself, and the gospel from *Nehemiah 1, 2*?
2. Since *all Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16)*, why do you think God listed the names and tasks of those involved in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem?
3. Repairs can be physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational in nature. In what areas of your personal life is God calling you to engage in repair, and how are you responding to His call to do so?
4. In what areas of our congregational life is God calling us to engage in repairs, and how are we responding to His call to do so?
5. Have you found your place yet on “the walls” of Central to engage in the “building” ministry of our church? Share what that place is for you. If you have not found that place yet, speak with one of our elders, pastors, or Kate Spielman (kspielman@centralpres.com) who coordinates our assimilation ministry. Perhaps the Lord has something waiting for you!
6. When Jesus spoke to those who expressed a desire to follow Him (*Luke 9:57-62*), there was a sense of both urgency (now is the time) and unconditionality (follow Me on My terms, not yours). Was Jesus in a panic, or did He try to intimidate and manipulate people to follow Him? Why do you think He was so straightforward in this passage?
7. What is meant by “my clock obedience” and what are the dangers for Christians who have this attitude?
8. What is meant by “conditional obedience” and what are the dangers for Christians who have this attitude?
9. Perhaps one of the weightiest statements that Jesus ever made about following Him is found in *verse 62 – No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God*. What is this text saying to you? What is this text saying to us as a congregation? What *plow* are we called to put our hand to, and what factors might deter us from doing so?
10. What does repentance and faith in the gospel look like for you/us when we fail to put our hand to God’s *plow*?

11. In last Sunday's sermon, emphasis was made on the meaning of *the good hand of my God was upon me (2:8, 18)*. What is meant by today's sermon conclusion: "We put our hand to the plow because Jesus put His hand to the cross." How does the power of the gospel help us overcome the sins of "my clock" and "conditional" obedience?