making room

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Devotional Series

Week 3: A Work Worth Sharing

Defining Question: *"What is my part, and will I be faithful in it?"*

Prayer Challenge: *Give God your hands. Ask Him: "Lord, show me my part in this work. Show me what to do and give me strength to do it."*

Day 15: Building Next Door

Scripture: *"Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the sheep gate. They sanctified it, and set up its doors... Next to him the men of Jericho built. Next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built."* - Nehemiah 3:1-2

Reflection: Over these first two weeks, we've wept with Nehemiah, walked the broken walls at night, and watched a whole community say, "Let's rise up and build." Now the work begins - and it starts with names.

Real names. Real people. The high priest and his brothers built the sheep gate. The men of Jericho built next to them. Zaccur, son of Imri, built next to them.

I love that Nehemiah records every name. He doesn't say "the people built the wall." He says *these* people built *this* section. Because in God's kingdom, the work isn't anonymous. It's personal.

Some of these people were priests. Some were merchants. Some were goldsmiths - we'll see that later. Everyone had a section. Nobody was asked to build the whole wall. Just their part.

That's the question this week: *What is my part - and will I be faithful in it?*

You don't have to carry the whole campaign. You just have to build your section. And when every person does their part, the wall rises.

Takeaway: You don't have to build the whole wall. Just your section. What's your gate?

Prayer: *God, I give You my hands. Show me my part in this work. Show me what to do and give me strength to do it. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 16: Across From His Own House

Scripture: *"Above the horse gate, the priests made repairs, everyone across from his own house. After them, Zadok the son of Immer made repairs across from his own house... After him, Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs across from his room."* - Nehemiah 3:28-30

Reflection: Did you catch that? *Everyone across from his own house.*

The priests didn't build some random section of wall. They built the part right outside their front door. The section they walked past every single day.

That's convicting. Because it means the first place you build is the place closest to you. Your family. Your neighborhood. Your own heart. Before you worry about someone else's section, take care of the wall right outside your own house.

I think about the people in our church who are already doing this. The mom raising her kids in faith. The dad leading his family in generosity. The couple serving their neighbors. They're building across from their own house - and the wall is rising.

Takeaway: Start where you are. Build the section closest to you. What wall needs repair in your own life first?

Prayer: *God, I give You my hands. Show me my part in this work. Help me start close to home - build in me before You build through me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 17: Willing Hearts

Scripture: *"They came, everyone whose heart stirred him up, and everyone whom his spirit made willing, and brought Yahweh's offering for the work of the Tent of Meeting... The children of Israel brought a free will offering to Yahweh; every man and woman whose heart made them willing to bring for all the work."* - Exodus 35:21, 29

Reflection: Moses doesn't twist anyone's arm. There's no guilt campaign. The people leave his presence, and something stirs inside them. Their hearts move first. Their hands follow.

Notice who shows up: men and women. Rulers brought precious stones. Women who knew how to spin brought thread. Nobody was too rich to contribute something small. Nobody was too poor to contribute something valuable.

I think about our church. Some of us can write a large check. Some of us can give up coffee for a month to free up twenty dollars. Both are offerings. Both are willing hearts. Both make room.

Takeaway: God doesn't compare your gift to anyone else's. He looks at your heart. What is He stirring in you today?

Prayer: *God, I give You my hands. Show me my part in this work. Stir my heart - and let my hands follow. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 18: More Than Enough

Scripture: *"They spoke to Moses, saying, 'The people have brought much more than enough for the service of the work which Yahweh commanded to make.'... So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient to do all the work, and too much."* - Exodus 36:5, 7

Reflection: The workers had to tell Moses, "Stop. Tell the people to stop giving. We have more than enough."

When's the last time a church had to say that?

This overflow didn't come from a few wealthy donors. It came from *everyone.* The overflow was the collective result of hundreds of ordinary people saying yes.

That's what could happen here. One person gives up a subscription. Another gives a portion of savings. Another writes a check that costs them something real. And suddenly, the workers are saying, "It's more than enough."

Takeaway: Overflow starts with ordinary faithfulness. Your part - however small - contributes to something bigger than you can see.

Prayer: *God, I give You my hands. Show me my part in this work. Let my small offering be part of the overflow. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 19: Leaders Who Give First

Scripture: *"Then the princes of the fathers' households, and the princes of the tribes of Israel... offered willingly; and they gave for the service of God's house of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand darics... Then the people rejoiced, because they offered willingly. After all, with a perfect heart they offered willingly to Yahweh."* - 1 Chronicles 29:6-7, 9

Reflection: David gave first. Then the leaders gave. Then the people gave. And then - *everyone rejoiced.*

That order matters. David didn't say, "You should give." He said, "I have given" - and then invited others to join him. That's kingdom leadership. Not from a platform. From a place of personal sacrifice.

And then look at verse 9: *"The people rejoiced."* The word "perfect" is *shalem* - whole, complete, at peace. They weren't anxious about their gift. They were whole in it. Giving brought them *joy.*

Takeaway: Generous leaders create joyful givers. The invitation to give is an invitation to rejoice.

Prayer: *God, I give You my hands. Show me my part in this work. Help me give with a whole heart - shalem - complete and at peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 20: Living Sacrifice

Scripture: *"Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God is."* - Romans 12:1-2

Reflection: Paul says *living sacrifice.* Not dead. Not once. A living, daily, ongoing offering.

Here's the problem with living sacrifices: they keep crawling off the altar. That's why Paul says *present* - it's a daily, deliberate act. Not "I gave my life to Christ thirty years ago, and that's enough." Today. Again. Fresh.

"Don't be conformed to this world." The world has a mold for you: protect your comfort, accumulate for yourself, don't take risks. *"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* God doesn't want you to just act different. He wants you to *become* different.

That's what this campaign is asking. Not just a financial commitment - a life commitment. Present your body. Renew your mind. Stop conforming. Start transforming. That's "life to the full."

Takeaway: A living sacrifice is a daily choice. What part of your life is God asking you to place on the altar today?

Prayer: *God, I give You my hands. Show me my part in this work. Transform me from the inside out. I present myself - today, again, fresh. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Day 21: First Themselves

Scripture: *"This was not as we had expected, but first they gave their own selves to the Lord, and to us through the will of God."* - 2 Corinthians 8:5

Reflection: Paul highlights the most important detail about the Macedonian churches: *"First they gave their own selves to the Lord."*

Not their money first. Not their time first. *Themselves.*

That's the order. That's always the order. When you give God your heart, the rest follows. When you hold back your heart, everything else is just performance.

I think about Nehemiah, who wept before he built. I think about David, who gave before he asked. I think about the Israelites, whose hearts moved before their hands did. It all comes back to the heart. Every campaign. Every building. Every act of obedience. It starts with surrender.

"And to us through the will of God." They gave themselves to God *and* to the mission. Not one without the other. That's what "all in" means.

Takeaway: Everything flows from surrender. Give God yourself first - and watch what He does with the rest.

Prayer: *God, I give You my hands. I give You my life. Show me my part in this work. I'm all in - not just with my wallet, but with my whole self. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

This devotional series is part of the "Making Room" Capital Campaign at Grace Covenant Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia. For more information or to participate, visit gcch.org/mr or contact the Church Office via email: questions@gcch.org or by phone: (540) 433-9244.

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