

## A MIND TO WORK

### INTRODUCTION

- The 80/20 Rule
- Review: Five Features of the Family of God: A Love for Christ, A Hunger for Truth, A Culture of Grace, A Mind to Work, a Heart for Missions.

### A MIND TO WORK (NEHEMIAH 4)

- Sneers and Jeers (Neh. 4:1-3)
- Prayers and Progress (vv. 4-6)
- Swords and Trowels (vv. 7-20)
- Sacrifice and Success (vv. 21-23; 6:15-16)

### YOUR WORK MATTERS TO GOD

- This church is a testimony to the many generous, sacrificial workers who have gone before us. We have now inherited it from them and must be found faithful.
- Maximizing ministry is a matter of stewardship. To whom much is given, much is required! (Lk. 12:48)
- Typically, the New Testament authors follow a pattern of “indicatives” followed by “imperatives.”
- In particular, there are 40 different “one anothers,” including...
  - Employ your spiritual gifts in serving one another (1 Peter 4:10)
  - Pray for one another (James 5:16)
  - Encourage one another (1 Thess 5:11)
  - Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)
  - See also Mark 9:50; 1 Thess 4:18; Rom. 12:10, 13; 14:13; 15:5, 7; 1 Pet. 1:22; 4:10; etc.
- There are no separate categories of sacred and secular. Every waking moment is an opportunity to glorify God. Your work is a gift, and it matters to God! (Gen. 1:28; Ecc. 9:7-10; Col. 3:23)

### A MIND TO WORK IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- We will confess our apathy and idleness, asking God to help us serve him more fully (Prov. 19:15)
- We will redeem the time, because the days are evil, and Jesus is returning soon (Eph. 5:16)
- We will exercise our spiritual gifts for the building up of others (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 14:26)
- We will encourage the whole church -- not just leaders -- to do the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:11f)
- We will celebrate each gift and not be in competition or view some gifts and ministries as more important than others (1 Cor. 12:21-23)
- We will be open-minded toward new ideas, initiatives, and strategies, and will follow our spiritual leaders as they strive to help us evangelize our community and disciple believers.
- We will resist the temptation to be critical or divisive when decisions are made and things are done a little differently than we prefer. (Remember last week’s lesson on having a culture of grace).
- We will give generously and sacrificially to God’s work, knowing ministry requires money (2 Cor. 8-9).
- We will pray for strength, knowing apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5)
- Curtis Thomas: “Nowhere in Scripture do we have the slightest hint that God’s people are to volunteer. ....The term volunteer may give a believer the idea he has an option whether or not he is willing to serve in a certain capacity and that if he chooses to serve in that capacity, he is going beyond his actual responsibility...If I have been gifted in a certain area, I have no alternative but to use that gift, serving with the strength God gives me, for the good of others. Such service should be performed joyfully, thanking God for giving me the opportunity to serve his body” (*Life in the Body of Christ*, 93-94)

