



**HAND ME
ANOTHER
BRICK . . .**

I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. vv 11-15

The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. v 16

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. vv 17,18

- 1 We are in trouble**
- 2 Let's rebuild!**
- 3 We will no longer be in disgrace
(a reflection on God's reputation)**
- 4 I have the authority and blessing of
King Artaxerxes and the God of heaven!**

They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work. v 18

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” v 19

I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.” v 20

1 John 4:4

**You, dear children, are from God and have overcome
... because the one who is in you is greater than the
one who is in the world.**

Observations:

- 1 There is no indication that anyone complained (even though others wouldn't work).**

**2 The high priest and other priests
worked along side of the laymen.
There was no distinction
between clergy and laity.**

3 They dedicated each section of the wall to the Lord. They knew that this was God's work. They knew that what they were doing had eternal significance.

**4 There was at least one team that
included women!**

What are the *attitudes* we see among the 37 teams of wall-builders?

- > eagerness (not sluggishness)**
- > willingness to do hard work, even when they've never done it before**
- > willingness to get their hands dirty (Jesus washed the disciples' feet)**

- > perseverance: not quitting until they were done! (They didn't change their clothes for 52 days)**
- > apparent working without much praise (If you don't care that others notice your work, you can get a lot of work done!)**
- > minding their own business!**
- > single-mindedness**

Ephesians 4:15, 16

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

“Lord, help me to realize that I cannot do everything alone. Help me to seek out others to work with me to accomplish God’s purposes in my life. Make me willing to do any job that needs to be done. Help me to work hard for your glory. Help me to be a model for others as I fulfill my calling in the Body of Christ.

In Jesus’ name, Amen”