

MINUTEMEN
NEHEMIAH 4:16-18

There is a memorial in Concord MA dedicated to the minutemen of the Revolutionary War. The memorial is a statue of a common man, with a rifle in his right hand and his left hand resting on a plow. This is a great example of Ministry. We plant, build, and labor... and we fight when called upon. In the passage we are going to look at, we see this same idea at work... a reminder that the man of God must be prepared for whatever may be demanded of him-

Nehemiah 4:16-18 (NKJV) So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. 17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. 18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

I CHANGING DEMANDS:

A- Life is not static! It doesn't stay the same... it is always moving

1. Life can be peaceful, joyous, relaxing, comforting, encouraging, blessed
 - a. And, it can be chaotic, crisis, trauma, uncertainty, discouraging, weary
 - i. Sometimes that's all within one day!

2. This reminds us that the demands from us will vary!

- a. **Ecclesiastes 3:1** To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven...

- i. Then follows a list of seasons-

B- So, in our passage Nehemiah has been sent to rebuild the walls, his focus is building...

1. But the demand from him changed... now he has people trying to stop him, so now we need to build and fight-
 - a. We have to do 1 task, and be ready for another-

2. This is life; marriage, parenting, ministry, follow up, counseling... You need to have room for it!

- a. People that struggle with changing demands usually have no room for it: Things have to be perfect (no ripples)

II FRAMERS & FIGHTERS:

A- The people in our story rise to the challenge of responding to the changing demands.

1. **Neh4:16** So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor... they are doing both

- a. Building the wall, staying on task & ready with weapons in place and on hand-

b. That is the symbol of the minuteman: The plow is symbolic of Building a new life, securing his family, preparing for the future, building the land... and ready for the battle if called upon-

B- This is still true today! We must still frame the arenas of life, and stand ready for the fight!

1. Responsibility doesn't stop because there's crisis! Because there's fight, resistance, opposition-

- a. Some things still have to be done!

2. Which are you? All framer? You function only under good conditions?

- a. All Fight: You're not building other arenas of life when there is peace & opportunity- (That is laziness)

3. Truth is we need to be both! It is required we be both. It is most effective when we are both!

III READY RESPONSE

A- The men in our story functioned in a ready response:

1. **Neh4:17** Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon... They function in a state of readiness-

- a. Ready Response means: *in a state of completion or preparedness, as for use or action*

- b. Minutemen: *an American Revolution militiaman who agreed to be ready for military duty; at a minute's warning.*

2. This is a call for us! To scatter the seed of the Gospel, build our homes & church... & Be ready for the fights

- a. Be ready for the demands that come our way... Pressure today is GOOD for you... It's preparing you for tomorrow