

Dr. John Johnson  
November 5-6, 2005  
It Takes a Village  
Nehemiah 3

The people of the Jerusalem have been “settling” for life as usual for 140 years while all around them the rubble and distress of their situation is visibly evident. Nehemiah is able to challenge their perspective and galvanize their support for the rebuilding of the walls of city. He does this because of his holy imagination concerning the situation, (Nehemiah 2:17-18). He is able to:

- See the trouble they were in
- See the hope that they could have

The Village challenge is to be the kind of people that Nehemiah was. To see the “trouble” around us and to challenge it with a “hope” that is eternal.

Discussion Questions:

1. What principle or lesson impacted you from the weekend message?
2. Pastor Johnson referred to a “tipping point experience” as one that pushes a person from inaction over to action. Share with your group a tipping point experience in your life.
3. In the wild west of the growing new America people who found a new place to put down roots were called “settlers.” We can see this as a good thing for them to do but in our spiritual life not something we want to do – to get comfortable, settled in life. In what ways have you been a “settler” spiritually?
4. Nehemiah was a voice of hope. He told them what God had done in his life. Brainstorm ways you could become a voice of hope for those with which you come in contact?