

so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Nehemiah 6:3 (NIV)

Focus

You already know what I am going to say to you, don't you? I doubt it. Your thoughts are so much higher than mine. How could I possibly know what you are going to say to me? **What I want to say to you is not new to you. I have been trying to get your attention on this topic for quite some time. I have used so many others and different ways to try to speak to you about this. Just now it's coming into focus for you.** What's that? You need to tell me. I'm not sure exactly what you mean, but you have my full attention.

I have given you work to do for me. Yes, I know. **It could be called "a great work" could it not?** Yes, it surely could. I'm actually amazed at the enormity of the work that you have given me to do. **It is a large assignment. But, you will have all the help you need from me to accomplish it.** So, is there something about this "great work" that I have been missing? **Yes, there is.** What is it?

Have you ever heard someone say, "You need to find your voice"? Yes, I have. **That message was from me. Finding your voice is a way of saying, "become who I want you to be and then do what I ask you to do".** Aah, I see. **Do you?** **What I want you to understand is that there are many good things that will attempt to distract you from the "great work" that I want you to do for me.** That's been happening to me a lot. **Yes, I know. I want you to stay "on task" and continue to do the "great work" I have given you to do. Don't set it down for something else that seems good to you.** I get it. **Not yet, you don't.**

Let me ask you a question. Go ahead. **What does a newborn lion sound like when it roars?** I suppose it sounds like a little kitty. **Yes, that's exactly right. As you continue to grow up in me and do what I ask, you will find your voice. Now, you sound like a little kitty. But one day you will roar for me and my glory.** I will? **Yes you will, if you follow me and let me work through you on the work that I have given you to do for me.** I get it. **Not yet, you don't.**

Let me give you another example. I'm listening. You have my full attention. **You've heard about the concept of focused light?** I think so. **That has also been a message from me to you as well.** It has? **Yes, it has. You know that a focused light has power like a laser?** Yes, I do. **You also know that an unfocused light has very little power?** I can see where this is headed. **Where is that?** You want me to focus on you and the work you have given me to do. You don't want my life to be distracted or diminished by anything, even if it seems good to me. **Now, you get it! I do? Yes, you do.**

But let me ask you a test question. Go ahead. **What are you going to do when someone asks you to do something that will cause your work for me to stop?** I am going to say "the Lord has given me a 'great work' to do for Him and I cannot leave it and let the work stop." **See, you really do get it. Did anything of what I have just said to you surprise you?** No, not really. It's just now that all the pieces have really come into focus. **Yes, they have. Follow me and continue to do the work I have given you to do.** Yes Lord, I will.

Lord, thank you for giving me gifts, talents, and abilities to serve you. Help me to know the work you want me to do for you. Prepare and strengthen me for your service. Help me to not be distracted and so I can keep doing the work. Amen

Identity *A Great Project*

so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?"

NIV Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

ESV Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

so I replied by sending this message to them: "I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?"

NLT Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

NKJV Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to come down to you?"

NRSV Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

so I sent messengers back with this: "I'm doing a great work; I can't come down. Why should the work come to a standstill just so I can come down to see you?"

MSG Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

And I sent messengers to them, saying, I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave to come down to you?

AMP Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

so I replied by sending back this message to them: "I am doing a great work! Why should I stop to come and visit with you?"

TLB Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

NASB Nehemiah 6:3

Identity *A Great Work*

So I sent messengers to them with this answer: "I am doing a great work, and I can't come down. I don't want the work to stop while I leave to meet you."

NCV Nehemiah 6:3

A Great Project

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Identity – Nehemiah 6:3

In Context: *Read Nehemiah 6*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, thank you for giving me gifts, talents, and abilities to serve you. Help me to know the work you want me to do for you. Prepare and strengthen me for your service. Help me to not be distracted and so I can keep doing the work. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How have you come to understand your design and how the Lord wants to use you in His service?

What gifts, talents, and abilities has the Lord given to use for Him?

How have you discovered the work that God wants you to do for Him?

What have been distractions that have attempted to hinder your work for the Lord?

How has the Lord developed in you a passion to serve Him?

What would happen if you stopped serving the Lord and did not do the work that He had given you to do?

How has the Lord given you the strength to keep doing the work that He has given you to do for Him?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Ask the Lord to prepare and strengthen you to do the work that He has given you to do for Him.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in our heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will give you a great project, designed for you, to do for Him.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group what the Lord has given you to do for Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you give your full attention and effort to do the work that the Lord gives you to do for Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, help me to focus on you and the work that you have given me to do so that I will not become distracted.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?
