**Sermon Notes – A vision for the Church – Nehemiah 2:11-18 & Chapter 3**

* What was the best team that you ever worked or played with? Why was it such a great team?

**Read Nehemiah 2:11-18 and 3:1-5**

* Who were the first ones mentioned that started to rebuild and why was the Sheep Gate significant for them?

**Vested Interests?**

* When you observe where people built, to what extent was that location determined by their own vested interest?
* What might this suggest to us about where we might serve within the life of the church?

**All involved?**

* How would you feel if you were one of those from Tekoa working hard in the heat of the day and the only ones noted for not getting involved were your nobles (3:5)?

**The Dung Gate (3:14).**

* Are there less attractive tasks that need to be accomplished in the ministry of the church? What might they be and who should tackle them?

**Motivation.**

* What motivated the people to work hard ‘with all their heart’ in order to accomplish this task (4:6)? What motivates us in our service for one another in and through the life of the church?

**Attitude.**

* Baruch was noted for his zeal and enthusiasm. Can you recall a time when you were energised and enthused by your vision for a job or task? What was it?

**Teamwork**.

* The people worked together (‘next to him’, ‘next to them’ occurs 15 times). What attracts you to working in a team rather than working alone?

**Spiritual Renewal.**

* Chapters 8 following show the impact of engaging in this great enterprise which went way beyond simply building the wall. Ezra the Priest led the people into spiritual renewal and refreshment. What does this suggest about the words of Jesus, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’ (Acts 20:35)?

As we look to rebuild the community life of our church after the impact of the pandemic where can you play your part? Pray together for one another for fresh vision for the ministry and mission of our life together here in Tewkesbury and observe what the Lord is saying to you.

