

and the leaders need to have an answer. The question does not only involve the work needing to be done, but also involves the ability of the one who is asking the question. When a sister asks, "What can I do?" we dare not ask her to preach on Sunday. We do not want to ask an unstable older man to clean cobwebs away from the lights on the ceiling. The work must be matched to the worker. The young are zealous and fit but inexperienced. The older are wise but may be limited physically. No one should feel badly that they are unable to do certain works. They can do other things. Remember the question is "What can **I** do?" Do not become discouraged about what you can not do. Do you think everyone had the strength to carry stones or the knowledge to apply mortar in building the wall? Do what you can and let someone else take care of what you cannot do.

There is a reason God made us all differently. He gave some a booming voice. He gave others a keen mind. He blessed some with artistic ability and gave some practical common sense. The diversity of gifts is to help us become united. I need to see what I can do and do it. In the same way, I need to see what I cannot do and appreciate those who can do it. Sometimes our discouragement does not come from outside of the walls. We discourage ourselves and others by trying to do what we cannot do and not appreciating those who can. We discourage ourselves by seeing my contribution as minimal and yours as grand. We discourage ourselves by not knowing how to answer the question, "What can I do?". We discourage ourselves when no one ever asks the question even though the work is there and the able bodies are within reach.

We need to do. We need to ask. We need to compliment those who do what they can. We need to encourage those who can, and teach those who cannot, yet. We need to accept our limitations. We need to work side by side. We need to see, report, and volunteer. We need to be willing to work where we can and where we are needed.

Ron Roberts

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

August 11, 2019

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Editor: Ron Roberts

(317) 851-6777

Elders: Randy Allen and
Ron Roberts

Moorevillecoc.com

Announcements

Shelby is home recovering. You can help her by bringing a meal to her. Sign up on the bulletin board.

School is back in session for many of our students. Do not let the classes or the extracurricular activities get in the way of serving God.

Our next three parables and teachers are: 1. Two Debtors (Rusty), 2. Midnight Friend (Rex), and 3. The unjust judge as well as the Pharisee's and Publican's Prayers (Tadd).

Does anyone have a recliner they are not using? We could use one at the building for the comfort of members who attend with illnesses. Tell the elders if you can help.

Larry Ping II will be starting a church in Vincennes, IN in November. He requests prayers, hymnals, Bibles, and financial support. If you would like to help see the elders.

**Have you
prayed for
the church
this week?**

“What Can I Do?”

“What can I do?” It is a good question. It is asked by volunteers who wish to contribute but are unsure as to what needs to be done. A similar question is “How can I help?”. The needs are apparent, but the solution to the problems may not be as obvious.

The question puts the leader in charge. If he is a good leader he understands the problem. He knows what would solve it. He is ready to answer the question of the volunteer. Unfortunately, often the leader is not so good. He does not know what should be done and all those who want to help are sent away or given a meaningless task.

When Nehemiah learned of the disgrace in Jerusalem he wanted to do something about it. The walls were still down. The city was in shambles. The people were at the mercy of all of their neighbors. Being in the capital of Persia, Nehemiah did not see the damage first hand. It was reported to him. He did not view it as somebody else’s problem. He did not dismiss it as something that was far away from him. He wanted to rebuild the walls and prayed to God about it. Neh. 1:4 says *“And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,”* He goes on to acknowledge God’s goodness and Judah’s sins. He expresses repentance and asks for God’s help before the king. Nehemiah was the king’s cupbearer, so he was in his presence often.

Nehemiah understood what needed to be done, but he could not act without the king’s permission. The king observed his sadness and asked him about it. Nehemiah again prayed to God and then answered the king. He was granted the opportunity to go to Jerusalem and to rebuild the walls. He was also given letters to give him safe passage and to help him to obtain the needed materials. When he arrived in Jerusalem he surveyed the city’s damage before talking to anyone about his purpose in coming. He wanted to know what needed to be done before anyone asked him, “What can I do?”.

After his inspection, Nehemiah spoke (Neh. 2:17-18). *“Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king’s words that he had spoken unto me. **And they said Let us rise up and build.** So they strengthened their hands for this good work.”*

I suspect the walls were left in ruins at least partially because the Jews were afraid of the king. Rebuilding the walls without the king’s permission could suggest revolt. This is what the enemies suggested as the building got underway (Neh. 2:19).

The third chapter consists of a list of those who got involved in the work. We read of one group working and then another *“next unto them.”* We read of an individual working and then *“after him”* how someone else worked. The list is long and the workers were many. The chapter suggests great organization. Nehemiah, or someone, knew where to put those who asked, “What can I do?”.

The building began and the opponents showed up. The work needed to be adjusted. Some would build and some would stand guard. This again suggests the need for assignments and leaders who were informed of the situation.

If you are familiar with the book you know that the wall was restored. God protected Israel and the people were willing workers. The enemies tried several tricks to discourage the efforts but were always unsuccessful. Nehemiah showed courage, patience, and love in finishing the task he began and even working beyond it. If anyone was to ask him, “What can I do?” he would have a ready answer.

Some members of the church will never ask this question. They see what needs to be done and do it. Others will never ask this question because they are afraid they will get an answer. They see what needs to be done and they hope someone else does it. Others will ask the question