

WEEK 2

REBUILD IT

A STUDY OF NEHEMIAH

Pastor Kyle Chamberlain | Oct. 8th, 2023

Opposition

- 1Pet. 4:12, 5:8, 1 Tim 3:12

"10When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites." (Neh. 2:10)

- There's opposition because someone is benefiting from your brokenness

"The people replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work. 19But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?" (Neh. 2:18-19)

"1When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?" 3Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!" (Neh. 4:1-3)

- Constructive criticism isn't just tearing you down; it's attempting to build you up.
- Whenever there is advancement, there're will be opposition.

4 types of opposition in Nehemiah

1) Discouragement

Mocked & Ridiculed....feeble

2) Intimidation

"8They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it... 11Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work." (Neh. 4:8,11)

The goal of fear is to get you to freeze.

"12Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us." (Neh. 4:12)

3) Drama

One strategy of Satan is to wear out the Saints.



"2Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; 4Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. "(Neh. 6:2,4)

4) Distraction

If the devil can't make you bad; he'll make you busy.

4 Ways to respond to opposition

1) Expect it 2Cor. 2:11

"7 I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah?" (Neh. 2:7)

The enemies attacks may be pervasive but they're also predictable .

2) Address it

"the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. 8They all plotted fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. 9But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat." (Neh. 4:7-9)

"13 I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places," (Neh. 4:13)

Where areas of your life need to be shored up? _____

"6So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.10Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." (Neh. 4:6,10)

The hardest opposition comes when you're half way through.

"19Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. 20Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!" 21So we continued the work "(Neh. 4:19-21)

3) Remember what you're fighting for.

"13I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. 14After I looked things over, I stood up and said "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." (Neh. 4:13-14)

"3so I sent this reply: "I am doing a great work, and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" 4Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. "(Neh. 6:3-4)

4) Fight the right battle.

"4Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders." (Neh. 4:4-5)

We don't battle against people. We battle with the Lord.

8They all plotted...9But we prayed (Neh. 4:8,9) 9They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands." (Neh. 6:9)

15When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work. (Neh. 4:15)

