

NEHEMIAH 4-6 REBUILDING THE WALLS

Outline adapted from a sermon By Adrian Rogers

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So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.
⁷ Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry,⁸ and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.⁹ Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.¹⁰ Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."¹¹ And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."¹² So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us."¹³ Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.¹⁴ And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."¹⁵ And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.¹⁶ So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah.¹⁷ Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.¹⁸ Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

Nehemiah 4:6-18 (NKJV)

WE ARE IN A BATTLE--For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)**

THE METHODS, SNARES AND WILES THAT SATAN USES

1. DERISION NEHEMIAH 4:1-3

THEY HAD A MIND TO WORK

So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. **Nehemiah 4:6 (NKJV)**

Get with the plan, put your hand to the plow and do not look back! Focus and get to the work

But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." **Luke 9:62 (NKJV)**

THEY HAD A HEART TO PRAY

Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God. **Nehemiah 4:9 (NKJV)**

THEY HAD AN EYE TO WATCH

And because of them we set a watch against them day and night. **Nehemiah 4:9 (NKJV)**

2. DISCOURAGEMENT NEHEMIAH 4:10

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. **Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)**

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. **Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God **. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NKJV)**

3. DANGER NEHEMIAH 4:11

REMEMBER THE LORD--And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome..." **Nehemiah 4:14a**

REFLECT ON THE ISSUE--*"And fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."*

Nehemiah 4:14 (NKJV)

RESIST THE ENEMY--*Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.¹⁸ Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.*

Nehemiah 4:17-18 (NKJV)

4. **DISCORD**

And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren. **Nehemiah 5:1 (NKJV)**

One who sows discord among brethren. **Proverbs 6:19b (NKJV)**

Then I said, "What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?"¹⁰ I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury!¹¹ Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them."

Nehemiah 5:9-11 (NKJV)

5. **DISTRACTION**

Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),² that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm.³ 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?"⁴ But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.

Nehemiah 6:1-4 (NKJV)

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4b (NKJV)

6. **DEFAMATION**

Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand.⁶ In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king.⁷ And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart."

Nehemiah 6:5-8 (NKJV)

DON'T ANSWER, ONCE YOU START IT WILL NEVER END!

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him.⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.

Proverbs 26:4-5 (NKJV)

7. **DISMAY**

For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

Nehemiah 6:9 (NKJV)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind

. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

8. **DECEPTION**

Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you."¹¹ And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!"¹² Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.¹³ For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

Nehemiah 6:10-13 (NKJV)