

Knocked down but not knocked out (Nehemiah 2:11-4:23)

Nehemiah chapter 2:11-20

Nehemiah inspects the walls of Jerusalem.

Why do you think he went at night? Why do you think he waited to tell his fellow Jews about his plan?

Nehemiah wanted to survey the situation and see what was needed to do the project, he was counting the cost! He waited to talk to them so that he could have a plan in place when he spoke.

Note: Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem are foreigners who did not belong in Jerusalem. They were taking advantage of the Jews and making a profit from them.

What is Nehemiah's response to the opposition?

God will give us success (it will not be because of us).

Who is getting the glory in what he is saying?

God

Nehemiah chapter 3:

The plan comes together, the builders are in place.

Nehemiah chapter 4:

What was Attack #1? (vs. 1-3)

Godly plans will be opposed! They were mocked! A classic line is "if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down." Sometimes people use words to discourage those trying to do what is right!

What is Nehemiah's response?

Once again it is prayer!

What is attack #2? (vs. 7-8)

A physical attack. Notice we went from words to a physical threat!

What is Nehemiah's response?

1. Prayer

2. Practical action

What is attack #3? (vs. 11)

Valley Bible Church Youth Study

A threat against their life

What is Nehemiah's response? (vs. 12-23)

1. Encouragement/strength in the Lord (vs. 14,20)

"The Lord is great and awesome"

"Our God will fight for us"

2. Practical action

a. Everyone carries weapons (vs. 16-23)

b. Trumpeter to sound if an attack is coming (vs. 20)

c. Each man and his servant slept at the wall (vs. 22)

d. They stayed diligent in their work and protected each other (vs. 23)

Discussion questions:

Are you an encourager, complainer or discourager?

Are you a leader for God at school? How can you be?

Application:

We will face opposition when we follow the Lord.

Our first response to opposition should be to pray.

You may need more than prayer, take wise, practical action.

2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:19-21, Colossians 4:2, Ephesians 3:14-21 tells more about opposition and prayer.

What "walls" are you working on in your life? What opposition do you face in order to do what God wants you to do? What steps do you need to take to follow through on what God wants?