

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Nehemiah – verse by verse

**Scriptures for Today: Nehemiah 4:1-23 – the adversaries showed up; God's people kept working.**

Today's Message:

**"Overcoming Opposition"**



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw God's people begin to repair the gates and the walls of Jerusalem. We learned that each of the gates pointed to Jesus Christ and key truths related to the Christian life. Today, we will see the return of the adversaries that hate God and His people. They will appear as usual and on schedule to try to stop the work of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. We will learn practical helps for how to overcome opposition in our lives as we seek to do the work of the Lord. This is God's message to you...

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### ❖ The Text      Nehemiah 4:1-23

#### A. The Mockery (1-6) – the adversaries opposed God's work and His workers.

- God's people were being \_\_\_\_\_ for their work for their Lord.

#### W1828 "Mock"

To imitate in contempt; to deride; to laugh at; to ridicule; to treat with scorn.

#### 2 Kings 18:19

And Rabshakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, **What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?**

#### Isaiah 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose **MIND is stayed on thee:** because he trusteth in thee.

- God's prophets      **2 Ki 2:23; 2Chr 30:1-12; 36:16**—...they mocked the messengers of God
- Jesus Christ      **Mt 27:29,31; Mk 15:20; Lk 18:32; 22:63; 23:11, 36**
- Apostle Paul      **Acts 17:32** – ... heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked
- Christians      **Mt 5:11** – Blessed are ye, when **men shall revile you...** for my sake
- Mocking is a prophetic response.      **Gen 19:14; 2 Pet 3:3** – ... in the last days scoffers...
- God is not mocked.      **Gal 6:7; Prov 1:26** – ... I will mock when your fear cometh;
- The adversaries of God use this tactic continually; let God deal with them.

#### Nehemiah's Reponse:

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Nehemiah 4:4-5** – Hear, **O our God**; for we are despised...
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Nehemiah 4:6** – So **built we the wall**...
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Nehemiah 4:6** – ... for the people had a mind to work.
- Working together by God's grace and for His glory... is the recipe... don't quit!

**"... for the people had a mind to work."**

The strategy of the devil is to get you to stop working. The battlefield is your mind. He will do whatever he can to get your mind off Jesus Christ and His glory and work. To overcome satanic opposition and attacks you must keep your mind stayed on God.

**B. The Conspiracy (7-15) – the adversaries united *together* against God.**

2. The enemies heard of the progress, were very angry, and \_\_\_\_\_ to stop it.

**Question**

Are the wiles of  
the devil wearing  
you out today?  
Are you feeling  
**overwhelmed**?  
Are you feeling  
**discouraged**?

- They were losing \_\_\_\_\_. **Neh 4:10** – ... The **strength... is decayed...**
- There was much \_\_\_\_\_. **Neh 4:10** – ... and there is **much rubbish...**
- The people felt \_\_\_\_\_. **Neh 4:10** – ... we are **not able to build** the wall.
- Other Jews “**wore them out.**” **Neh 4:12** – ... they said unto us **TEN TIMES...**
- This is spiritual warfare; the enemy tries to wear you out to cause you to quit!

**Nehemiah’s Reponse:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Neh 4:9** – Nevertheless **we made our prayer unto our God...**
- Set a \_\_\_\_\_ **Neh 4:9** – ... and **set a watch** against them day and night...
- Be not \_\_\_\_\_ **Neh 4:14** – ... Be **not ye afraid** of them...
- \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord **Neh 4:14** – ... **remember** the Lord, which is great...
- \_\_\_\_\_ for those you love **Neh 4:14** – ... **fight** for your brethren... your wives...
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Neh 4:15** – ... we **returned all of us to the wall**, every one...
- Nehemiah helped them to focus on *the Problem Solver* instead of the problem!

**Psalm 42:5**

Why art thou cast  
down, O my soul?  
And why art thou  
disquieted in me?  
**hope thou in God...**

**C. The Unity (16-23) – the people labored together with swords by their side.**

3. From that time forward, God’s people were \_\_\_\_\_ to work and fight!

**1 Timothy 6:2**

**Fight the good fight  
of faith, lay hold  
on eternal life...**

- Building **Neh 4:16, 17** – ... with **one of his hands wrought in the work...**
- Fighting **Neh 4:16, 17** – ... and with **the other hand held a weapon.**
- What a beautiful picture of the Christian life! We are called to work and fight!

**Jude 1:3**

... and exhort you  
that ye should  
**earnestly contend  
for the faith...**

**Nehemiah’s Reponse:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ ready **Neh 4:18,20** – ... he that **sounded the trumpet** was by me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ each other **Neh 4:19,20** – ... we are separated... **resort ye thither unto us...**
- \_\_\_\_\_ God **Neh 4:20** – ... our **God shall fight for us.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Neh 4:21** – So **we laboured in the work...** morning till the stars
- God can accomplish great things when His people have a mind to work!

**Galatians 6:9**

And **let us not be  
weary in well doing:**  
for in due season  
we shall reap,  
if we faint not.

**2 Thess 3:13**

But ye, brethren, **be not  
weary in well doing.**

**“... none of us put off our clothes, saving... for washing.”**

What a story! Keep your hands on the plow, and don’t look back! Amen. Nehemiah led God’s people to keep looking up and keep working. Often, the closer you are to Jesus Christ, the less you seem to focus on your problems. The “ten times” people lived close to the enemy and were very anxious! Let us take heed then to God’s message today. It is time to seek the Lord and do His work earnestly! You may need to clean up rubbish first! Ask God to help you today. He knows you. Repent and move forward.