

# Nehemiah – Rebuild

## Chapter 4 “Dealing with Opposition”

### Review

#### Chapter 3: Working as a Team

1. To accomplish God’s purpose, we need a common vision for the task.
2. To accomplish God’s purpose, we need dedicated leaders who can help everyone work toward the common vision.
3. To accomplish God’s purpose, we need willing workers who do their part.

#### Chapter 4 – Dealing with Opposition

Everyone will face trials, tribulations, opposition, and persecution.

- We can face them w/ God or not.
- We can face them alone or with others.
- *“Opposition is not only an evidence that God is blessing, but it is also an opportunity for us to grow.” -Warren Wiersbe*

**John 16:33 (ESV)** — <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

#### Vv. 1-9: Insults, Ridicule, Intimidation, and Threats

1. Sanbalat & Tobia go from deeply disturbed(ch2) to full opposition
2. There is some truth in insults and ridicule, and it takes our eyes off of the good things of God in me, others, and around me.
  - a. Goliath ridiculed David when the shepherd boy met the giant with only a sling in his hand (1 Sam. 17:41–47). Jesus was mocked by the soldiers during His trial (Luke 22:63–65) and by the rabble while He was hanging on the cross (23:35–37)
3. Reliance on God: Nehemiah prayed for the failure, destruction, and protect from their enemies – God’s enemies
4. Responsibility of the People: The work continued amidst the opposition.

#### Vv. 10-15: Discouragement (this was internal strife)

1. Weariness, fear, doubt – these are a reality when left to our own strength and purposes
2. Nehemiah’s Response
  - a. Pray without ceasing and about everything
  - b. God called us to this!
  - c. Our God will fight for us!
  - d. Reliance on Prayer
    - i. Real and transparent
    - ii. Prayer makes our actions effective, but do not replace our part

**Psalms 118:6–8 (ESV)** — <sup>6</sup> The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? <sup>7</sup> The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. <sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

## Vv. 16-23: Staying on Mission

### 1. Be Realistic – life will have trials

**James 1:2–4 (NIV)** — <sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

### 2. Be Aware/Watchful - Ready to help others; 2 Cor. 2:11, add 1 Cor 16:13 ESV mens ministry key verse (BH)

#### a. Look for enemy attacks

**1 Peter 5:8–9 (NIV)** — <sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**1 Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)** — <sup>13</sup> Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

#### b. Look for where God is moving – Where is there a gap, a need I can fill?

#### c. Discerning the needs of others

**1 Peter 4:7–10 (NIV)** — <sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. <sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

### 3. Be Focused – on God

**Philippians 3:12–14 (NIV)** — <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

#### a. Abide/remain in Christ John 14, John 10:27-29

**John 10:27–29 (NIV)** — <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.

#### b. Focus on the positive, the path, our purpose. Philippians 4:8-9

**Philippians 4:8–9 (NIV)** — <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

#### c. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but the forces of evil in the spiritual realm.

##### i. Prepare for being on Mission w/ God Ephesians 6:10-20

*“... I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.” —Ephesians 6:19b–20 (NIV)*