

G R O W T H N O T E S

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 4:1-23

TODAY'S MESSAGE

“Building Through the Battle: Lessons from Nehemiah on Overcoming Opposition While Rebuilding”

Nehemiah 4:1-23

4 Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, ² saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, “What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make

something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?”

³ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!”

⁴ Then I prayed, “Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! ⁵ Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders.”

⁶ At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of

Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. ⁸ They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

¹⁰ Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.”

¹¹ Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.”

¹² The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!” ¹³ So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to

stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

¹⁴ Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall. ¹⁶ But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. ¹⁸ All the

builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm.

¹⁹ Then I explained to the nobles and officials and all the people, “The work is very spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to wherever it is sounding. Then our God will fight for us!”

²¹ We worked early and late, from sunrise to sunset. And half the men were always on guard. ²² I also told everyone living outside the walls to stay in Jerusalem. That way they and their servants could help with guard duty at night and work during the day. ²³ During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water

LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH ON ACKNOWLEDGING—ADDRESSING—& OVERCOMING OPPOSITION

1. “Nehemiah Recognized Opposition but Refused Discouragement”

Nehemiah, Chapter 4, Verse 1, Says—“But when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews.”

2. “Nehemiah Took the Opposition to God in Prayer—(BECAUSE—Prayer Is To Be A FIRST RESPONSE—AND—Not A LAST RESORT)!”

**In Nehemiah, Chapter 4, Verse 4—He
Prayed—**“Hear, O our God, for we are
despised.”

Nehemiah, Chapter 4, Verse 9—Says—“But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.”

3. “*Nehemiah Adjusted His Strategy Without Abandoning the Mission.*”

Nehemiah, Chapter 4, Verse 17, Said—“Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other.”

4. “*Nehemiah understood that opposition required vigilance.*”

5. “*Nehemiah Stayed Focused Until the Work Was Finished!*”

Nehemiah, Chapter 6, Verse 3, Said—“I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down.”

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HOW NEHEMIAH OVERCAME

- 1.He Recognized opposition without becoming discouraged.**
- 2.He Responded with prayer and dependence on God.**
- 3.He Adjusted his strategy while continuing the work.**
- 4.He Stayed focused until the task was finished.**