



Dealing with Opposition

Nehemiah 4

What does the Bible teach?

Prayer is our main weapon when faced with opposition. (v. 4-5, 9; Matthew 5:44)

God is always greater than the opposition. (v. 1-3, 7-12; John 4:4)

Take every precaution and face the opposition. (v. 9, 14, 16-20; Ephesians 6:10-13)

Keep going till you finish or God changes the plan. (v. 6, 15, 21-23; Philippians 3:14)

How should I respond?

Pray for your enemies.

Depend on the Lord.

Be prepared for battle.

Stay on God's task.



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Group Discussion

1. What does the passage say?

What is the writer ultimately trying to communicate to his readers? What issue is the writer addressing?

2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?

How would a 1st Century Christ-follower receive this message?

3. What does this passage tell us about God?

Explain what you understand about God from the text. Is that a new idea or truth for you?

4. What does this passage tell us about man?

In your own words share what this passage encourages us to do to follow Jesus more fully and faithfully?

5. What does this passage demand of me?

Personally speaking, what areas of living in relationship with Jesus do you need to address?
How should you live in light of what this passage says?

6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

What does this passage communicate about the need for grace and humility in community with others? Whom should I invite to seek Jesus?

7. What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

Are you in need of forgiveness or repentance?
Do you need to intercede for others?
Do you need an "extra measure" of faith to follow Jesus or engage the community and world?

Nehemiah 4

Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. 2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" 3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. 5 Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. 9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

13 So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. 14 And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." 15 When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work.

21 So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. 22 I also said to the people at that time, "Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day." 23 So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.