



January 29, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Nehemiah 4:1-23 | “Overcoming Opposition”

Sermon Application Review from Nehemiah 3

How did you get involved in God’s work at CBC?

How did you experience unity and comraderies in your ministry service?

Scripture References

Nehemiah 4:1–23

Psalm 127:1–2

Psalm 139:21–22

Psalm 20:1–9

2 Chronicles 14:11; 32:7–8

2 Corinthians 4:7; 12:9

Ephesians 6:10–12

Study Questions

1. Why do people engage in ridicule? What do they hope to achieve? When are you most vulnerable to scorn? What particular barbs tend to discourage you? Have you ever tried to accomplish a task while others made fun of you and claimed you would never finish? What was your response? Did you give up or did their taunts make you push harder toward your goal? How can you encourage a discouraged group of people in your church?
2. How seriously do you take spiritual warfare? Where do you see Satan unleashing anger today? What type of criticism have you faced for attempting great things for God? What is God doing in your midst to show He is at work and is frustrating Satan? How do you typically respond when you face opposition to your faith? Read Ephesians 6:10–19.
3. What can we learn from Nehemiah’s prayer in 4:4–6? Is this the type of prayer we should pray today? If so, when and how? What is the successful balance between praying and working? When are you tempted to pray and never step forward in action? When are you guilty of working to the exclusion of prayer? In what specific way(s) is God calling you to step up in prayer and service?
4. How can you determine the difference between healthy realism that acknowledges problems and unhealthy negativism? How was Nehemiah both a realist and an optimist? In what specific ways did he motivate Judah? How can your view of God’s power and faithfulness compel other believers to action? How will you grow in your understanding of God’s character and attributes this year?
5. God seems to be a great fan of underdogs. Read Judges 7:2; 1 Samuel 14:6; 2 Chronicles 14:11; 32:7–8; Psalm 20:7; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 12:9. Why does God tend to use underdogs? Is CBC characterized by people who are united together with a mind to work? How do you respond when faced with tasks that seem overwhelming? How can God use you to help others work more passionately and effectively?

Recommended Reading

John Stott, *Christ in Conflict: Lessons from Jesus and His Controversies* (IVP, 2013)

Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Conflict Resolution: A Guide for Turbulent Times* (B&H, 2021)

Clinton E. Arnold, *3 Questions about Spiritual Warfare* (Baker, 1997)