

Fighting for what Matters

Text: Nehemiah 4

Introduction

“The Work Must Go On”

Nehemiah 4 is one of the clearest pictures in Scripture of what happens when God’s people begin rebuilding what the enemy tried to destroy.

Nehemiah was rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. The walls represented:

- Protection
- Identity
- Stability
- Testimony
- The future of God’s people

And the moment the work began to move forward, opposition showed up.

That is still true today.

The enemy is not threatened by:

- Empty talk
- Good intentions
- Emotional moments

But hell trembles when God’s people actually start rebuilding.

The enemy fights:

- Rebuilding marriages
- Rebuilding families

- Rebuilding ministries
- Rebuilding integrity
- Rebuilding faith
- Rebuilding broken lives

The enemy doesn't attack what's dead.
He attacks what's rising.

Nehemiah 4:1-3

“But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews.”

The first weapon of the enemy was ridicule.

Sanballat mocked them.

“Look at these weak people.”

“They can't do this.”

“The wall will never stand.”

And sometimes the enemy still uses mockery.

“You'll never recover.”

“You'll never rebuild.”

“You'll never overcome.”

“Your ministry is finished.”

“Your family is too broken.”

“You've failed too much.”

The enemy wants you discouraged before the battle even begins.

Because if he can kill your confidence,
he can stop your calling.

But Nehemiah teaches us something powerful:

Don't answer every critic.

Nehemiah did not climb off the wall to defend himself.

He prayed.

Then he kept building.

Some of us spend too much time trying to defend ourselves to people who already decided not to understand us.

You cannot rebuild and babysit critics at the same time.

Nehemiah 4:6

“So we built the wall... for the people had a mind to work.”

That phrase is powerful:

“The people had a mind to work.”

They were united.

Focused.

Committed.

The enemy fears unified people.

He fears people who:

- Refuse division
- Refuse bitterness
- Refuse distraction

A divided church cannot build.

A divided family cannot build.

A divided ministry cannot build.

But when people lock arms together,
progress begins to happen. (Brain and Sarah)

The wall began rising because the people made up their minds:
“We are going to keep working.”

Can I tell somebody today:

You cannot quit in the middle of rebuilding season.

Keep praying.

Keep serving.

Keep believing.

Keep rebuilding.

The work must go on.

Opposition Intensifies

As the wall grows,
the opposition intensifies.

Nehemiah 4:7-8 says:

“They all conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.”

Notice that.

The enemy wanted:

- Fear
- Confusion
- Chaos
- Division

Because confusion weakens people.

The enemy loves confusion because confused people stop building.

That’s why the enemy attacks:

- Communication
- Relationships
- Trust
- Vision

But Nehemiah did not panic.

Nehemiah’s Response

Verse 9

“Nevertheless, we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.”

I love this balance.

They prayed AND they prepared.

Some Christians only pray.
Some only strategize.

Nehemiah did both.

Prayer without wisdom can become passivity.
Wisdom without prayer becomes pride.

Nehemiah said:

**“We are going to trust God,
but we are also going to stay alert.”**

Faith is not ignoring reality.

Faith is trusting God while facing reality.

The People Became Tired

Verse 10 says:

“The strength of the laborers is failing...”

The builders got tired.

Can we be honest today?

Sometimes rebuilding is exhausting.

It's tiring:

- Carrying pressure
- Fighting battles
- Staying faithful
- Holding things together

Some of you walked in today tired.

Not physically.

Spiritually.

Emotionally.

Mentally.

And the enemy whispers:

“You might as well stop.”

But hear me:

Weariness does not mean God has left you.

Even strong people get tired.

Nehemiah's workers were tired,
but they kept building anyway.

The Enemy's Greatest Goal

Verse 11:

“Our adversaries said, ‘They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease.’”

The enemy’s goal was not just destruction.

It was this:

“Cause the work to cease.”

That’s what the enemy ultimately wants.

He wants:

- Prayer to cease
- Worship to cease
- Ministry to cease
- Faith to cease
- Revival to cease

The enemy doesn’t care how he stops the work:

- Offense
- Fear
- Gossip
- Weariness
- Temptation
- Distraction

As long as the work stops.

But today I came to declare:

The work will not stop.

Nehemiah Armed the Builders

Verse 17:

“Those who built on the wall... loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.”

What a picture.

They built with one hand
and fought with the other.

They understood:
“This is not just construction.
This is warfare.”

Church,
we are in a spiritual battle.

We build:

- Families
- Churches
- Ministries
- Lives

While simultaneously fighting:

- Discouragement
- Temptation
- Division
- Spiritual attack

But God gives grace for both.

Don't Come Off the Wall

One of the greatest lessons in Nehemiah:

Don't come off the wall.

The enemy always tries to pull builders away from the assignment.

“Come argue.”

“Come defend yourself.”

“Come get distracted.”

“Come quit.”

But Nehemiah understood:

“If I leave the wall,
the work suffers.”

Some of you need to stop climbing down into unnecessary drama.

Protect your assignment.
Protect your focus.
Protect your calling.

The wall matters too much.

The Trumpet of Unity

Nehemiah said:

“Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

I love that.

When the trumpet sounded,
everyone gathered together.

The enemy fears united believers.

When one hurts,
we gather.
When one struggles,
we gather.
When one falls,
we gather.

And Nehemiah declared:

“Our God will fight for us.”

Not:

“We are strong enough.”

No.

“Our God will fight for us.”

You are not carrying this battle alone.

God fights for:

- His people
- His purpose
- His church
- His calling

Closing

Nehemiah 4 teaches us:

You can rebuild while under attack.

You can keep moving while criticized.

You can keep building while tired.

You can keep serving while fighting battles.

And when God gives you an assignment,
you cannot allow opposition to stop the work.

Somebody here today feels surrounded by opposition.

But hear me clearly:

The presence of opposition does not mean God abandoned the mission.

Sometimes opposition is confirmation that the work matters.

The enemy fights what threatens his kingdom.

So today:
Keep building.
Keep praying.
Keep standing.
Keep believing.

The work must go on.

Altar Call

Maybe today:

- You're tired
- Discouraged
- Under attack
- Tempted to quit
- Overwhelmed by opposition

But God sent this word to remind you:

Don't stop building.

God is not finished with:

- Your family
- Your ministry
- Your future
- Your calling

The wall may not be finished yet,
but progress is happening.

And the same God who helped Nehemiah rebuild
will help you rebuild too.

If you need strength today,
if you need renewed focus,
if you need God to help you keep building,
I want you to come.

Let's pray.