

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Overcoming Opposition

With Jeremy Vasic

Multiplication and Mobilization Catalyst

May 31, 2020



How do we overcome challenging opposition?

Nehemiah 4:1-2 Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, ²saying 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?”

Nehemiah 4:10-11 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.” ¹¹Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.”

Nehemiah 6:15-16 So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. ¹⁶When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

Overcome through:

- **Dedicated Prayer.**

Nehemiah 4:2-4 “Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?” ³Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!” ⁴Then 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!”

Nehemiah 4:8-9 They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. ⁹But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

- **Relentless Worship.**

Nehemiah 4:14 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”

- **Intentional Community.**

Nehemiah 4:15-17 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. ¹⁶But 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 Judah¹⁷ who were building the wall. The labourers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon.

- **Disciplined Action.**

Nehemiah 4:14 “and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

Colossians 2:14-15 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Big Idea: Overcome opposition by trusting in Jesus and His finished work.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Overcoming Opposition
#3 of 6 - May 31, 2020**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What challenge(s) are you facing in life right now?

3) Read Nehemiah 4:2-4. How would you describe Nehemiah's commitment to prayer? What does this tell you about him? In what ways have you been dedicated to prayer? How can you be more dedicated in your prayer life?

4) Read Nehemiah 4:14. What does it mean to "remember the Lord"? How does worshiping God help you in the midst of opposition? What steps can you take to be more relentless in your worship of God?

5) Read Nehemiah 4:15-17. In what way is this a powerful picture of community? What can learn from this for our church context? What has been challenging about creating and encouraging healthy community? How can you be more intentional about community in your life as individuals and as an impact community?

5) Read Nehemiah 4:14 and Colossians 2:14-15. What do you learn about yourself and about God from these passages? How have you experienced God's faithfulness as of late? In light of the Gospel, what disciplined action is God asking you to take right now to overcome opposition?

6) What is your next step to overcome the opposition in your life as you walk with Jesus? Take some time as an impact community to be dedicated to prayer.



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