

Time to Rebuild
Part 7: Ridicule
February 12, 2017

I **SLIDE** Opposition

A) Previously

- 1) Distraction
- 2) Cooperation that leads to Compromise
- 3) Discouragement
- 4) Deceit or betrayal

B) Avoid legalism

- 1) These are not a complete list of opposition
- 2) They do not come in order or one at a time
- 3) God is preparing us because we are in the midst of such opposition

C) **SLIDE** Truth

- 1) Rebuilding the spiritual temple of God means restoring His truth
- 2) Therefore, the real battle is over Truth
- 3) Over 150 times, Jesus uses the phrase, "I tell you the truth..."
- 4) Truth has been the central issue since the garden of Eden: Did God really say...?
- 5) Jesus tells us the truth
- 6) It is up to us to believe Him or not
- 7) Change the truth in the slightest way, & it is no longer the truth
- 8) **SLIDE** At the root of all this opposition lies the same question that Pilate asked Jesus
- 9) **John 18:37-38 (NIV)** ³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "**You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.**" ³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him.

II **SLIDE** Ridicule

A) **Nehemiah 2:19-20 (NIV)** ¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

B) **SLIDE** Ridicule/Mock

- 1) the subjection of someone or something to contemptuous and dismissive language or behavior:
- 2) to deride, to make fun of
- 3) to despise people to their face
- 4) denotes a strong attack, usually public
- 5) to show disrespect

C) **SLIDE** Opposition becomes public

- 1) The opposition so far has not necessarily been public
- 2) When the other attempts fail, the enemy goes public
- 3) Israel's enemy becomes very vocal so others can hear
- 4) This opposition is personal
- 5) Dr. Richard Dawkins is a staunch opponent of the church.
- 6) At his seminars, he encourages his audience to "mock them [Christians], ridicule them, in public ... with contempt."

7) **SLIDE** Examples,

- a) Baby Jesus in a nativity was replaced with a pig's head
- b) "Angel from Hell" - woman forcibly befriended by an angel that drinks and tells sexual jokes
- c) "Impastor" - deadbeat takes place of a pastor who accidentally falls to his death - fake pastor takes advantage of women, steals drugs, and mocks Christianity
- d) Washington Post reporter Michael Wiesskopf dismissed Christian conservatives as "largely poor, undedicated, and easy to command."
- e) Cartoons that are too vulgar to show or mention mocking the crucifixion and life of Jesus **SLIDE SLIDE**

D) **SLIDE Exodus 20:7 (NIV)** ⁷ "You shall not misuse [use lightly, thoughtlessly, or frivolously] the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

- 1) When people misuse God's name or mock Jesus, they often ridicule us even more for objecting
- 2) Understand: God does not, will not, and never will take lightly our misusing His name in any way
- 3) This type of attack has severe consequences
- 4) **SLIDE Hebrews 10:28-29 (NJB)** ²⁸ Anyone who disregards the Law of Moses is ruthlessly *put to death on the word of two witnesses or three*; ²⁹ and you may be sure that anyone who tramples on the Son of God, and who treats *the blood of the covenant* which sanctified him as if it were not holy, and who insults the Spirit of grace, will be condemned to a far severer punishment.

E) **SLIDE Solution**

- 1) **Nehemiah 2:20 (NIV)** ²⁰ I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."
- 2) Nehemiah answered them with the truth, with faith, with prayer, and with humility
- 3) He does not respond with anger or indignation
- 4) **SLIDE James 1:19-20 (NIV)** ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.
- 5) James's words are aimed at us, not at the world
- 6) Our anger can never accomplish God's purposes; thus, we are to be slow to speak
- 7) Pray and keep moving forward

- 8) **SLIDE** The Jews and Romans mocked Jesus
 - a) **Matthew 20:19 (NIV)** [Jesus said the religious leaders will condemn] ¹⁹ and will turn him [Son of Man] over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"
 - b) Save yourself
 - c) Call on God to send help
 - d) Soldiers placed robe and crown of thorns on Jesus and laughed
- 9) **SLIDE** Jesus kept His eyes on the Father said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."
- 10) Jesus left the correction to God while Jesus kept His eyes on the goal set before Him
- 11) Ridicule and mocking can hurt and can anger us
- 12) However, we are not to give in to this opposition because we know the truth
- 13) We are not to respond in kind
- 14) If we answer ridicule with ridicule, we take up the ways of the world
- 15) We belong to Jesus so we keep building on THE foundation set before the world was created
- 16) Our actions are our response