

**Text:** Nehemiah 6:1-9

**Meaning:** Nehemiah built despite the opposition

**Big Idea:** We can build despite the opposition

**Objective:** Fulfill the mission of God despite the opposition

**Theme:** Building instructions

### **WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING? FAMILY, CHURCH, KINGDOM**

Are you building your MARRIAGE or tearing it down?

Are you building THE KINGDOM OF GOD in this community of tearing it down?

Are you LAYING UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN or just building your own investment portfolio or retirement account?

Are your BUILDING YOUR KIDS up in the gospel or tearing them down with your criticism and narcissism?

Are you BUILDING THE CHURCH or do you expect everyone else to do that?

### **CHURCH – WHAT KIND OF FAMILY DO YOU WANT? WHAT KIND OF KIDS DO YOU WANT? WHAT KIND OF CHURCH DO YOU WANT? WHAT KIND OF REPUTATION DO YOU WANT AS A CHILD OF GOD?**

#### **READ NEHEMIAH 6:1-9**

**Nehemiah** – incredible book on leadership.

**Nehemiah** – was a builder in his generation. He led the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, the city of God, and to reinstitute Temple sacrifices and the Hebrew law. In only 52 days the people completely rebuilt the fortification around Jerusalem, a miraculous feat, and all Nehemiah's reforms pointed the people back to the Lord and led to one of the greatest times of revival in the history of the Jewish people.

**BY THE WAY** – Nehemiah wasn't a prophet, priest, or pastor. He was a godly official in the Persian empire. He became governor in the land of Judah. The gospel is not going to go forward simply by preachers, it is going to go forward through the powerful witness of God's people in the marketplace.

### **Nehemiah 4:17**

Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.

The Christian life – one hand doing the WORK and the other hand holding a WEAPON

What is the WORK of the CHURCH?

GREAT COMMISSION – Matthew 28 – GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Instructions for Building:

#### **1. EXPECT OPPOSITION**

The Bible talks over and over about this. The Christian life is referred to as a GRUELING RACE and a FIGHT. Job said the days of man are short and full of trouble. Jesus said in this world we will have trouble, but we can take courage because He has overcome the world. Multiple times in the bible we are told to be sober, vigilant, on the alert, and Peter said it's because the devil, the great adversary of God and His people, is like a roaring lion roaming around trying to destroy lives.

#### **Ephesians 6:10-12**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities,

against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

If someone told you that the Christian life was going to be easy HE LIED TO YOU!

BY THE WAY – let me encourage you today – **THE BATTLE IS PROOF YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD AND WALKING WITH GOD!**

NEHEMIAH HERE FACED REAL OPPOSITION. Sanballat – Tobiah – and Geshem the Arab. Starting from the very beginning of the work in Chapter 2 we see these three guys opposing the work and rallying others to oppose the work. But here in chapter 6 they intensify the opposition greatly because they are nearing completion and they don't want the city of God or the people of God to be strong.

Satan wants to disrupt, distract, divide, and outright destroy what God is trying to do

Here we see the modus operandi of the enemy:

**TEMPTATION** – The terrible trio first tries to lure Nehemiah into a secret meeting in a central location. Just meet us halfway and let's find middle ground. But Nehemiah had enough discernment to know that these men were seeking to harm him.

**1 Cor 10:13** – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man, and God is faithful and he will provide a way of escape for you.

Jesus overcame temptation in the wilderness in Matthew 4 by standing on Scripture and remembering His identity in Christ. Romans 6:11 says we must consider ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ.

HOW DO YOU OVERCOME TEMPTATION – SPIRIT, SCRIPTURES, AND THE SAINTS. Through prayer, the promises of God, and the people of God. Prayer – GOD HELP ME. Promises – I KNOW WHO I AM AND WHOSE I AM. People of God – CONFESSION AND PRAYER

**MANIPULATION** – The terrible trio's intent was to stop the work, not support diplomacy. Nehemiah had enough discernment to know who to trust and who not to trust. God doesn't want us to go through life paranoid. Not everyone is an agent of the enemy in your life, BUT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE THE ENEMY BRINGS INTO YOUR LIFE TO LEAD YOU ASTRAY. TO MANIPULATE YOU INTO THEIR WAY OF THINKING, THEIR WAY OF LIFE, AND/OR THEIR AGENDA.

They will use any means possible – emotions, lies, half-truths, gossip – to achieve their ultimate goal

IF THEY WILL TALK ABOUT THEM TO YOU THEY WILL PROBABLY TALK ABOUT YOU TO THEM

Nehemiah – combated manipulation with discernment. Discernment is the spiritual smell test. It's the ability to decipher what is right and what is wrong, and who is right and who is wrong. It's the ability to decide between what is right and what is near right.

**ACCUSATION** – 4 times the terrible trio sent threatening letters to Nehemiah and he said the same thing every time – "I don't have time to respond to your non-sense because I'm too busy working for the Lord." So they send a 5<sup>th</sup> letter and in that letter they accuse Nehemiah of ulterior motives and of a power play. This was just his way to make himself a king, they said.

**Warren Wiersbe**

If we take care of our character the Lord will take care of our reputation

**Revelation 12:10** – Satan is the accuser of the brethren

Some of the most difficult spiritual attacks are instances of betrayal, where a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, or even a family member decides they are going to go on a smear campaign against you for their own selfish motives.

Putting others down to lift yourself up only proves you were on the bottom in the first place.

DON'T BE A BOTTOM DWELLER! The lowest most despicable attitude is selfishness.

BY THE WAY – Be careful what you take as gospel. If they will lie to you they will lie about you. We live in a day of false accusations, misinformation, and outright lies – all used for power, money, and political influence.

ANTI-CHRIST – WILL RISE IN THE LAST DAYS. GREATEST POLITICIAN, GREATEST INFLUENCER, IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

CHURCH – THE STAGE IS SET FOR THE ANTICHRIST. Economic upheaval, world health confusion, war and violence, and protracted conflict in the middle east.

**INTIMIDATION** – Nehemiah said here the terrible trio's goal was to FRIGHTEN THEM. John 10 Jesus said the thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy. Fear is one of the leading tactics of the devil. Any religion or political ideology that uses fear and control to oppress people is OF THE DEVIL. IT'S DEMONIC. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN GAZA IS DEMONIC! That is militant Islam. That is militant Hinduism. That is atheistic communism in places like Russia and China.

If Satan can paralyze you with fear, doubt, and worry then he can keep you from serving God and sharing Christ with others.

Fear motivates people more than they are willing to admit. Fear of failure. Fear of loss. Fear of not having enough to take care of my family. Fear of physical sickness or terminal illness. Fear of the world around me.

FEAR – Forgetting that everything is all right. Our God is BIGGER, BETTER, STRONGER, AND GREATER than whatever we face today and even the devil himself!

**2 Corinthians 10:4**

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

**2. PICK UP YOUR WEAPONS**

**PRAYER**

**PRAISE**

The praise team always led the army of Israel into battle. They declared praise to their God before the battle even began. Praise is a battle ground! When we gather to life up the name of Jesus and praise Him for His goodness, righteousness, and grace – WE DECLARE HIS VICTORY AND OURS TO THE WORLD!

**PROPHETIC WORD**

Scripture says there is a spirit of prophecy in the church. There are those who have a gift of prophecy, and God will supernaturally give some a word of prophecy for someone else. A Word of prophecy is a specific word God puts on our heart for someone else that is meant to lift them in their faith. It's not a destructive word, it's a constructive word. The Holy Spirit will prompt us at times to give a word to someone else, and it serves to destroy the word of the enemy in their life and lift them to a stronger place in faith.

**THE TRUTH**

Psalm 37 – Commit your way to the Lord and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your justice as the noon day

### **THE WORK**

**James 4:7** – Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Nehemiah knew he had to get back to work. We fight the devil when we declare the gospel to our lost friends, neighbors, and the nations. When one more gets saved the devil loses a little more ground.

Church – WE ARE TAKING BACK CLARKSVILLE FROM THE DEVIL! HE IS THE "LITTLE G" GOD OF THIS WORLD – HE BLINDS THE MINDS OF THE UNBELIEVING SO THAT THEY CANNOT BELIEVE.

THAT'S WHY WE PRAY. THAT'S WHY WE WORSHIP. THAT'S WHY WE SERVE AND GIVE. THAT'S WHY WE SHARE CHRIST WITH THE WORLD! So they can be rescued!

### **Nehemiah 12:27**

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres.