

Opposition from the Outside

Pastor Mark Wilks, NEHEMIAH 4

1. The strategies of the enemy.

- Ridicule is a substitute for reason, laughter is a substitute for logic. vs. 1, cf 2:19
- Resistance – When you obey God anticipate opposition. vs 8

Nehemiah 4:6–8 (NASB95)

6 So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. 7 Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. 8 All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.

- Rumors are exaggerated the more they are repeated. vs. 12

2. The result of the attack – discouragement

- “We are only halfway there! vs. 10 – Fatigue
- “There is too much rubble.” vs. 10 – Frustration
- “By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” vs. 10 – Failure
- “Our enemies are going to get us.” vs. 11 – Fear

3. The response by the leader

- Nehemiah prayed to God – trust in God. vs 4
- Now Nehemiah is not the only one praying! vs. 9
- “Posted a guard” – set boundaries – protect your territory. vs. 9
- Nehemiah’s spiritual charge, “remember who God is!” vs. 14

Application:

- This week identify what it is you value and want to protect.
- This week set your boundaries.
- This week look for opportunities to pray together.