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Fighting for a Better Life in Hostile Territory Nehemiah 4:1-20

Series Summary

The book of Nehemiah lays out the blueprint for every nation, every church, and every individual to learn how to rebuild the broken walls of life. Nehemiah led the nation back to Jerusalem to rebuild the ruined walls of the city. The people were weak and without protection as long as the wall laid in ruins which is also true with your life and mine. The trials and difficulties of Life tend to knock down the walls of our faithfulness, strength, courage, and perseverance, leaving us vulnerable and fearful. God reminds us in this amazing book that it is possible to rebuild those broken walls. We find His plan for rebuilding life on the right foundation in the Book of Nehemiah.

Main Text

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT) – ⁹Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. ¹¹Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? ¹²A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Big Idea – Be Unified for His Glory and Your Victory

A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

Four Tips of Triumph

Tip #1 – Silence Your Sidewalk Supervisors by Trusting the Lord

Nehemiah 4:1-3 (ESV) – ¹Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ²And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” ³Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”

Tip #2 – Respond to Your Enemy by Choosing to Pray and Persist

Nehemiah 4:4-6 (ESV) – ⁴Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. ⁶So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people

had a mind to work.

Tip #3 – Conquer Your Critic by Listening to the Word of God Instead of the Rumors of the Wayward

Nehemiah 4:7-12 (ESV) – ⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” ¹¹ And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.” ¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us.”

Tip #4 – Fear the Lord More than Your Enemy and Trust in His Strength

Nehemiah 4:13-20 (ESV) – ¹³ So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. ¹⁶ From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, ¹⁷ who were building on the wall. 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. ¹⁸ And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. ¹⁹ And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. ²⁰ In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 20:4 (NLT) – Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

Challenge:

You are called to consistently apply the divine principles and truths found in the Word of God. Take the next step in your study by (1) Discussing and applying the sermon with your small group or (2) Participating in a Sunday School class.