

The spirit of Sanballat and Tobiah is alive today. Do you aspire to be a Bible teacher? or maybe a song leader? or do you try to motivate others in evangelism? The spirit of Sanballat will be happy to tell you that you will fail. Today's Tobiah will throw cold water on your plan.

Or, it can be your own self-doubt that causes you to lose courage. We tell ourselves that we have failed in the past, and will probably fail again. How do we deal with that? I think we have to be like Nehemiah and trust that God will help us. Remember his prayers.

Did the criticism of Sanballat and Tobiah stop the work? It did not. Nehemiah 4:6 says. "So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work." It was Nehemiah's prayers and courage that motivated the people.

Kingdom leaders need the courage of Nehemiah, the dogged determination and undaunted perseverance that says, "I will not quit! I will press forward and do God's will!"

Written by; Max Dawson

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Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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Nehemiah: A Leader Who Knew The Value of Teamwork

Nehemiah came to the city of Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and gates of the city. Do you think he could do the job all by himself? Not in a hundred years! It took teamwork. And, by means of a team working together, they finished the wall in only fifty-two days.

In preparing to work on the wall, Nehemiah spoke to the enemies of God in Nehemiah 3:20. He said, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

Notice how he speaks in the plural. "God...will prosper us...we His servants..." He was not going to build the wall without the help of God's people. He knew he needed a team.

The entire third chapter is about how the people of Jerusalem worked together as a team. There were few exceptions. There were some who would not cooperate. Some of the nobles among the Tekoites "did not put their shoulders to the work of the Lord" (Nehemiah 3:5). These men regarded themselves as above manual labor. They thought they were too good to get their hands dirty. Do we need to be reminded that Paul did manual labor? See Acts 18:3. Jesus also did manual labor (Mark 6:3).

The fact that some did not cooperate did not stop the others from working. Every worker did his or her part. Have you noted in this chapter that women worked on the wall? Nehemiah 3:12 mentions a man named Shallum. The text says, "he and his daughters made repairs." Verse eight mentions a man named Uzziel, "one of the goldsmiths." This man would have been a worker in fine jewelry, but he was willing to lay stones for God's glory. It is also important to note that people from all over Judah came to work in the city.

The point is, people from every place in Israel, from every background and skill--both men and women--worked together to accomplish the task of rebuilding. Nehemiah was able to get God's people to work together as a team to accomplish an amazing feat.

The local church should see itself as a team of workers who cooperate with one another. Some folks have the wrong idea about the church. They fail to see it as a place of work. They see it more as a place of rest where they get to sit in a comfy pew and watch others do the work. Rest from our labors comes later, not now. See Revelation 14:13. Don't allow the spiritually lazy to discourage you from working. Today is the day of work!

The kingdom of God needs workers. As one of our songs says, "There is work that we all can do." The people of Jerusalem, Judah, and all Israel saw themselves as workers. And they got the job done in an amazingly short time!

And they had a man like Nehemiah as a leader who knew how to motivate the team!

Written by; Max Dawson

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Nehemiah: Courage in the Face of Opposition

In our recent offerings we have seen Nehemiah as a leader who would not delay God's work. Neither would he be sidetracked. Have you ever started on a project and got sidetracked? Maybe you started painting your garage but somehow got distracted. And six months later the garage is still half-painted! That's bad when it happens in home improvement. It is much worse when it happens in spiritual improvement.

What happens to us when people ridicule us as we work for our God? Of course, that can be a distraction. But it is more than that. It can just discourage us to the point where we want to give up. That could have happened to Nehemiah. Listen to Nehemiah 4:1-3.

"It happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, 'What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish-stones that are burned?' Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, 'Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall.'"

Just like in chapter two, Sanballat and Tobiah continued to ridicule Nehemiah and the work of his people. These wicked men just do not give up as they try to discourage the work! If you were Nehemiah, could you maintain your courage? See his response in Nehemiah 4:4-5.

"Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders."

It is so easy to become discouraged in the face of mockers. But Nehemiah maintained his courage. It appears that he did not even take time to respond to them. Instead, he asked God to fight for His people and to deliver these wicked men into captivity. The Lord had heard their taunts, and He would deal with them in His way and time.