



Build the Wall – Build a Life – Build a Leader – FACING OPPOSITION

All men have at some time and to some degree experienced having the walls to their heart torn down by the enemy in various ways. Your heart is like a city, which you are to protect from all forms of attack. Your heart is made up of your whole person—your mind, will and emotions. When the walls of your heart are torn down, the enemy has a free access to your mind, your emotions, or your choices. He comes in to deceive you into thinking destructive thoughts about who you are. He comes in to stir up your emotions with anger, confusion, depression, bitterness and shame. He comes in to influence or control your choices. When the walls are torn down you are vulnerable to addictions and uncontrolled thoughts, which invite you to believe lies about yourself and reality. You must confront the lies, be a leader and initiate the work of rebuilding the walls of strength, definition, and leadership. The story of Nehemiah is a narrative of leadership and the rebuilding of a life – a leader in the context of the community of God.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Summary: A Man knows to expect opposition and is prepared to fight!

Bible Verses: Nehemiah 6:15,16, II Corinthians 10:3-5, Ephesians 6:10-18, Nehemiah 4:1-23.

Music: God Bless America by Ret. Marine Sgt. Dan Clark

Video: Cool Hand Luke (1967) – Failure to Communicate
Resources: Nehemiah – Becoming a Disciplined Leader by Gene Getz
Nehemiah – Overcoming Challenges by Bill Hybels
The Emotionally Healthy Leader by Peter Scanzero

October 13, 2016

Nehemiah: Quit Maker #1 – Ridicule – 4:1-6.

1. _____ > Nehemiah was a man who understood momentum. He was committed to getting the people moving. He was very serious about seeing the wall around Jerusalem rebuilt and the safety of the people secured. He also knew that momentum could swing at any moment and the work could come to a screeching halt if he was not careful. Nehemiah learned that there were all sorts of things that could become momentum killers, and he was committed to finding ways to keep the project moving forward even when resistance was inevitable.
2. Momentum Killer #1: _____ > The first opposition Nehemiah and the people faced came in the form of ridicule from those who a lot to gain if the building project failed; who were at an advantage if the Jews in Jerusalem were unprotected and in constant disarray. They taunted and ridiculed the workers, hurling verbal grenades and starting a war of words.
3. _____ > Nehemiah's response was to pray, asking God to intervene on their behalf. He actually asked God to let the taunters' words ricochet and bounce back on their own heads (4:4). After praying, Nehemiah and the people got back to work. They did not let the harsh and insulting words win the day.

Nehemiah: Quit Maker #2 – Threats & Troublemakers – 4:7-9.

1. _____ > Sanballat and Tobiah moved from ridicule to planning violence against Nehemiah and the people. They were ready to bring things to blows and stir up some serious trouble.
2. _____ > Nehemiah's response was to pray, but they also posted a guard. What a picture of trusting God and actively standing strong for God! They knew that only God could deliver them, but they also knew that God expected them to do what they could to resist this threat.
3. _____ > Important: Maintain a healthy balance of praying and also taking personal action.

Nehemiah: Quit Maker #3 – Fatigue & Discouragement – 4:10-15.

1. _____ > The people became tired and discouraged. They finally hit a wall—it just wasn't the one they were building! They were tired, dejected, and feeling that the project was too big for them. They were tempted to quit!
 - a) Fatigue > "The strength of the workers was giving out" > 4:10.
 - b) Overwhelmed > "There was so much rubble that they felt the job was impossible" > 4:10.
 - c) Fear > "They feared that their enemies could strike at any moment and overcome them." > 4:11.
 - d) Intimidation > "The people who lived near the city kept telling them that no matter where they went, they would be in harm's way." > 4:12.
2. _____ > Nehemiah took action (4:13-15):
 - a) They strategically posted men with weapons at the most exposed parts of the wall, where attacks would most likely occur.
 - b) Nehemiah called the people to remember God, to reflect on the might and power of the One who could truly deliver them.
 - c) Nehemiah called them to fight for what mattered dearly to them—their family members and their homes
3. _____ > The people rallied and the wall continued.

Nehemiah: Quit Maker #4 – Confrontation – 4:16-23.

1. _____ > Nehemiah knew that the enemy was organized and armed and that a full frontal attack could come at any time. Yet they kept building.
2. _____ > The response of Nehemiah and the people was to prepare to defend themselves. All of them (Nehemiah and his family included) kept working, but they also carried spears, shields, and bows and arrows. With one hand they would hold a weapon, ready for battle. What a picture of tenacity and resiliency!
3. _____ > You must be ready to Fight against whatever might keep you from accomplishing God's purposes in your life.

Action: Journal This!

1. A Leader addresses his own brokenness. With God's help, I will begin immediately to address the following personal issue in my life _____ . What will make you want to quit?
2. I view Sabbath as a spiritual discipline that is essential for both my personal life and my leadership.
3. I take time to practice discernment when making plans and decisions.

Bible Verses

Nehemiah 6:15,16

The wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul. It had taken fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard the news and all the surrounding nations saw it, our enemies totally lost their nerve. They knew that God was behind this work.

II Corinthians 10:3-5

The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way - never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.

Ephesians 6:10-18

And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

Nehemiah 4:1-23

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall he exploded in anger, vilifying the Jews. In the company of his Samaritan cronies and military he let loose: "What are these miserable Jews doing? Do they think they can get everything back to normal overnight? Make building stones out of make-believe?" At his side, Tobiah the Ammonite jumped in and said, "That's right! What do they think they're building? Why, if a fox climbed that wall, it would fall to pieces under his weight." Nehemiah prayed, "Oh listen to us, dear God. We're so despised:

Boomerang their ridicule on their heads; have their enemies cart them off as war trophies to a land of no return; don't forgive their iniquity, don't wipe away their sin - they've insulted the builders!" We kept at it, repairing and rebuilding the wall. The whole wall was soon joined together and halfway to its intended height because the people had a heart for the work. When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the repairs of the walls of Jerusalem were going so well - that the breaks in the wall were being fixed - they were absolutely furious. They put their heads together and decided to fight against Jerusalem and create as much trouble as they could. We countered with prayer to our God and set a round-the-clock guard against them. But soon word was going around in Judah, The builders are pooped, the rubbish piles up; We're in over our heads, we can't build this wall. And all this time our enemies were saying, "They won't know what hit them. Before they know it we'll be at their throats, killing them right and left. That will put a stop to the work!" The Jews who were their neighbors kept reporting, "They have us surrounded; they're going to attack!" If we heard it once, we heard it ten times. So I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable places of the wall and assigned people by families with their swords, lances, and bows. After looking things over I stood up and spoke to the nobles, officials, and everyone else: "Don't be afraid of them. Put your minds on the Master, great and awesome, and then fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." Our enemies learned that we knew all about their plan and that God had frustrated it. And we went back to the wall and went to work. From then on half of my young men worked while the other half stood guard with lances, shields, bows, and mail armor. Military officers served as backup for everyone in Judah who was at work rebuilding the wall. The common laborers held a tool in one hand and a spear in the other. Each of the builders had a sword strapped to his side as he worked. I kept the trumpeter at my side to sound the alert. Then I spoke to the nobles and officials and everyone else: "There's a lot of work going on and we are spread out all along the wall, separated from each other. When you hear the trumpet call, join us there; our God will fight for us." And so we kept working, from first light until the stars came out, half of us holding lances. I also instructed the people, "Each person and his helper is to stay inside Jerusalem - guards by night and workmen by day." We all slept in our clothes - I, my brothers, my workmen, and the guards backing me up. And each one kept his spear in his hand, even when getting water.

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BUILD 'THE WALL

Build the Walls – Build a Life—Build a Leader!

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Rebuild the Wall – What Will Make You Quit?

Nehemiah 6:15,16; II Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-18

Nehemiah: Quit Maker #1 – Ridicule – 4:1-6

1. **Drive/Energy** > Nehemiah was a man who understood momentum. He was committed to getting the people moving. He was very serious about seeing the wall around Jerusalem rebuilt and the safety of the people secured. He also knew that momentum could swing at any moment and the work could come to a screeching halt if he was not careful. Nehemiah learned that there were all sorts of things that could become momentum killers, and he was committed to finding ways to keep the project moving forward even when resistance was inevitable.
2. Momentum Killer #1: **Ridicule** > The first opposition Nehemiah and the people faced came in the form of ridicule from those who a lot to gain if the building project failed; who were at an advantage if the Jews in Jerusalem were unprotected and in constant disarray. They taunted and ridiculed the workers, hurling verbal grenades and starting a war of words.
3. **Intimacy is the Answer!** > Nehemiah's response was to pray, asking God to intervene on their behalf. He actually asked God to let the taunters' words ricochet and bounce back on their own heads (4:4). After praying, Nehemiah and the people got back to work. They did not let the harsh and insulting words win the day.

Nehemiah: Quit Maker #2 – Threats & Troublemakers – 4:7-9

1. **Threats** > Sanballat and Tobiah moved from ridicule to planning violence against Nehemiah and the people. They were ready to bring things to blows and stir up some serious trouble.
2. **Action** > Nehemiah's response was to pray, but they also posted a guard. What a picture of trusting God and actively standing strong for God! They knew that only God could deliver them, but they also knew that God expected them to do what they could to resist this threat.
3. **BOTH** > Important: Maintain a healthy balance of praying and also taking personal action.

Nehemiah: Quit Maker #3 – Fatigue & Discouragement – 4:10-15

1. **Fatigue** > The people became tired and discouraged. They finally hit a wall—it just wasn't the one they were building! They were tired, dejected, and feeling that the project was too big for them. They were tempted to quit!
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2. **Action** > Nehemiah took action (4:13-15):
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 2. Nehemiah called the people to remember God, to reflect on the might and power of the One who could truly deliver them.
 3. Nehemiah called them to fight for what mattered dearly to them—their family members and their homes
3. **Let's Do It!** > The people rallied and the wall continued.

Nehemiah: Quit Maker #4 – Confrontation – 4:16-23

1. **Possible Attack** > Nehemiah knew that the enemy was organized and armed and that a full frontal attack could come at any time. Yet they kept building.
2. **Prepare to Defend Yourself** > The response of Nehemiah and the people was to prepare to defend themselves. All of them (Nehemiah and his family included) kept working, but they also carried spears, shields, and bows and arrows. With one hand they would hold a weapon, ready for battle. What a picture of tenacity and resiliency!
3. **Fight!** > You must be ready to Fight against whatever might keep you from accomplishing God's purposes in your life.

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