

## ***“Facing Opposition”***

Nehemiah 4:10-23

### **OPPOSITION TO THE WORK. v.10-12**

#### **1. Internal opposition. v.10**

- They questioned their own ability to finish the work.
- We don't have the strength! There is too much rubble! We can't do this ourselves!

#### **2. Opposition from enemies. v.11**

- Their enemies planned a surprise attack and threatened to kill them. They wanted the work to stop!

#### **3. Opposition from “friendlies” v.12**

- Even fellow Jews were questioning the work/encouraging them to quit.
- Townspeople of workers who had come from nearby villages tried to persuade them to come home.
- They were persistent. “...came from all directions and said to us ten times...”
- Even people of God can lose perspective and be persuaded by the ‘prevailing winds of culture.’

### **NEHEMIAH'S LEADERSHIP. v.13-14**

#### **1. Nehemiah responded. v.13**

- Addressed the weakest points along the wall.
- Stationed the people by families ('clans').
- Positioned them with weapons.

#### **2. Nehemiah inspired. v.14**

- “Do not be afraid of them.”
- “Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome.”
- Fight for those you love and your property.

#### **3. Nehemiah moved ahead with the work of rebuilding the wall. v.15-23**

- They returned to the work. v.15
- Nehemiah's government entourage was split between construction and defense. v.16
- The rest of the workers continued the work and carried weapons for defense. v.17-18
- Nehemiah anticipated a “what if” plan. v.19-20
- He accelerated the pace of the work. v.21
- He had the workers sleep in the city in case of a night attack. v.22
- He personally ‘kept his work clothes on’ to stay engaged with the work and model to the others. v.23

→ Don't abandon the ‘ordinary’ while you're waiting for the extraordinary.

“Trust in God and keep your powder dry!” – Oliver Cromwell

Spurgeon to his students: “Pray as if everything depended on God, then preach as if everything depended on you.”

Consider King David when under attack from his enemies...

1 Samuel 22:1-2: David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. <sup>2</sup>And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

This Valentine's Day weekend is a good time to rediscover and reaffirm why marriage is important. What do the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God say about it? And what must we do to get back to God's design and plan for the purposes of marriage and the family?

1. **Partnership:** "God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'" (Gen. 2:18)
2. **Procreation:** "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." (Gen. 1:28)
3. **Protection:** "Be not afraid. Fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." (Neh. 4:14)
4. **Provision:** "If any provide not for his own house, he is worse than an infidel." (I Tim. 5:8)
5. **Parenting:** "Raise up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6)
6. **Pleasure:** "How fair is your love, my spouse; how much better than wine." (Song of Solomon 4:10)
7. **Purity:** "You shall not commit adultery." (Ex. 20:14)
8. **Permanence:** "Rejoice with the wife of your youth!" (Prov. 5:18) "Let none deal treacherously with her, for she is ... the wife of your covenant." (Malachi 2:15)