**THE UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH**

**Nehemiah 4**

**THE BIG IDEA: In spite of opposition God’s Church can accomplish God’s work when they stand together under God’s guidance.**

**THE MORE YOU ACCOMPLISH FOR GOD, THE MORE THE OPPOSITION INTENSIFIES**

* *“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious. He mocked the Jews 2 before his colleagues and the powerful men of Samaria and said, ‘What are these pathetic Jews doing? Can they restore it by themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they ever finish it? Can they bring these burnt stones back to life from the mounds of rubble?’ 3 Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, ‘Indeed, even if a fox climbed up what they are building, he would break down their stone wall!’”* (Nehemiah 4:1-3)
* **When you are half-stepping or no-stepping with God, Satan and his forces have no need to bother with you, but when you are all in serving Jesus the attacks will come.**
* *“When Sanballat, Tobiah, and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the repair to the walls of Jerusalem was progressing and that the gaps were being closed, they became furious. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw it into confusion.”* (Nehemiah 4:7-8)
* *“And our enemies said, ‘They won’t realize it until we’re among them and can kill them and stop the work.’ 12 When the Jews who lived nearby arrived, they said to us time and again, ‘Everywhere you turn, they attack us.’”* (Nehemiah 4:11-12)
* **We live in a time when everyone wants to be liked and get “Likes”, but those who are truly committed followers of Jesus will always deal with being attacked by those who reject God’s Truth.**
* Jesus - *“You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. 12 Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* (Matthew 5:11-12)

**PROGRESS IN THE LORD’S WORK REQUIRES PERSEVERENCE**

* *“So we rebuilt the wall until the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had the will to keep working.”* (Nehemiah 4:6)
* **When God’s people rest in the fact that a Sovereign God is in control of His Kingdom work we can press on no matter the challenges we face.**
* *“After I made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, ‘Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the great and awe-inspiring Lord, and fight for your countrymen, your sons and daughters, your wives and homes.’”* (Nehemiah 4:14)
* *“So we continued the work, while half of the men were holding spears from daybreak until the stars came out.”* (Nehemiah 4:21)

**COMPLETING GOD’S MISSION NECESSITATES STANDING TOGETHER IN PURPOSE**

* *“From that day on, half of my men did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The officers supported all the people of Judah, 17 who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other. 18 Each of the builders had his sword strapped around his waist while he was building, and the one who sounded the ram’s horn was beside me. 19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, ‘The work is enormous and spread out, and we are separated far from one another along the wall. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the ram’s horn, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us!’ 21 So we continued the work, while half of the men were holding spears from daybreak until the stars came out. 22 At that time, I also said to the people, ‘Let everyone and his servant spend the night inside Jerusalem, so that they can stand guard by night and work by day.’ 23 And I, my brothers, my servants, and the men of the guard with me never took off our clothes. Each carried his weapon, even when washing.” (Nehemiah 4:16-23)*
* **From the beginning of creation God has emphasized His priority on Kingdom relationships serving Kingdom purposes.**
* *“Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. 10 For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm; but how can one person alone keep warm? 12 And if someone overpowers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
* **The local church is the outpost for the Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), which is why every believer needs to be connected and involved.**
* *“And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”* (Hebrews 10:24-25)
* *“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”* (Ephesians 4:16 NLT)
* **Every Christian has a distinct role in God’s Kingdom work, and when believers stand and serve together God’s mission cannot be stopped!**

\*\*CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK\*\*

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** What is one talent or skill you would like to improve upon and why?

**Start thinking:**

* What do we learn about God from Nehemiah 4:1-23?
* What stands out to you in Nehemiah 4 as you read it?
* Why do you think Sanballat and Tobiah wee so furious about Nehemiah and the Jews successfully rebuilding the walls?
* How did Nehemiah and the workers respond to the threats from Sanballat and Tobias?

**Start sharing. Discuss in depth to create openness.**

* Knowing you will face opposition whenever you are doing the Lord’s work, how does that make you feel? How do you respond?
* What does perseverance look like in your life when it comes to representing Jesus and doing His work?
* What are some things you do/can do to be better prepared to persevere through difficult times?
* Why is being connected and involved in a local church so important? How is your commitment level to God’s Kingdom work through your local church? (Note: The local church/assembly has been God’s primary vehicle for His Kingdom work since the resurrection of Jesus.)
* In what ways can you more establish yourself as “part of the Body” which is Christ’s Church?
* What is your “Big Takeaway” from this message?

**Pray**

* Share prayer requests and pray for each other.
* Pray for our community to be open to the Gospel.
* Pray for our church, and leadership.
* Pray for our government leaders, and local leaders.
* Pray about anything else the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for.