

A Mind To Work

(Nehemiah 4:1-6)

- Introduction:
1. Nehemiah was a cup bearer for King Artaxerxes I, King of Persia.
 2. He had heard that the walls had not been rebuilt; so he asked permission to rebuild.
 3. Nehemiah demonstrated great skills in leadership and organization.
 - a. Divided the work into 42 sections.
 - b. People were responsible for the section near their home.
 4. In just 52 days, the walls were completed.
 5. During this time however, they faced quite a bit of opposition.
 6. This opposition really isn't any different from the opposition we face today in the Lord's church.

I. Nehemiah Faced Mockery From Without

- A. (Nehemiah 4:1-6).
- B. Sanballat and Tobiah ridiculed the efforts of these "feeble Jews."
- C. Is the church ever ridiculed today?
- D. Nehemiah simply kept on praying and building.

II. Nehemiah Faced Rubbish From Within

- A. (Nehemiah 4:10).
- B. Sanballat already referred to this in (4:2) and maybe the seed of doubt he planted is bearing fruit among some of the people.
- C. Often, the church must "unteach" [clear away the rubbish of denominational teaching] before it can teach.
- D. During this process, we must not become discouraged and give up.

III. Nehemiah Faced Force From Without

- A. (Nehemiah 4:7-23).
- B. When scorn and mockery failed, the enemies of Nehemiah decided to use force.
- C. Nehemiah simply kept praying and building and instead of putting down his tools, he picked up arms.
- D. We are in a warfare with the Devil; don't drop your tools and run, pick up the sword of the Spirit and keep working.

IV. Nehemiah Faced Greed From Within

- A. (Nehemiah 5L:1-19).
- B. There was strife among the workers.
- C. Often the greatest harm that can be done to the church is by its own members fussing and quarreling with each other.
- D. Nehemiah didn't allow this to fester, but immediately confronted them and condemned the offenders.

V. Nehemiah Faced Compromise From Without

- A. (Nehemiah 6:1-4).
- B. His enemies now pretend to be friends, but they sought to do him mischief.
- C. There can be no fellowship between good and evil, the forces of Satan and the church of our Lord.

VI. Nehemiah Faced Slander From Without

- A. (Nehemiah 6:5-9).
- B. Nehemiah's enemies informed Nehemiah that they would accuse him before the King of rebellion.
- C. Nehemiah simply denied the charges and continued to work.
- D. Our life ought to be such that it can stand on its own merits against false charges and accusations.

VII. Practical Lessons From Nehemiah

- A. We can often do more than pray but we should never do anything without praying.
- B. With good leadership, much can be accomplished.
- C. With committed workers, much can be accomplished.
- D. We must overcome obstacles that stand in the way of our goal.
- E. Challenge yourself to greater service
- F. No matter who is on the throne, God is in control.

- Conclusion:
- 1. Despite all the forms of opposition Nehemiah faced, he and the people finished their work in 52 days.
 - 2. The one underlying key to their success was in (4:6) "They had a mind to work."