

Let Us Rise Up and Build

(Nehemiah 2:18)

- Introduction:
1. Nehemiah was a cup bearer for King Artaxerxes I, King of Persia and asked permission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
 2. In just 52 days, the walls were completed.
 3. During this time however, they faced quite a bit of opposition.
 4. I want you to note how their opposition is the same we face today.

I. Nehemiah Faced Mockery from His Enemies (Nehemiah 4:1-6)

- A. Sanballat and Tobiah ridiculed the efforts of these “feeble Jews.”
- B. Is the church ever ridiculed today?
- C. Nehemiah simply kept on praying and building.

II. Nehemiah Faced Rubbish that Made the Work Difficult (Nehemiah 4:10)

- A. Sanballat already referred to this in (4:2) and maybe the seed of doubt he planted is bearing fruit among some of the people.
- B. Often, the church must “unteach” before it can teach.
- C. During this process, we must not become discouraged and give up.

III. Nehemiah Faced the Threat of Violence (Nehemiah 4:7-23)

- A. When scorn and mockery failed, the enemies of Nehemiah decided to use force.
- B. Nehemiah kept praying and building and instead of putting down his tools, he picked up arms.
- C. 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 Internal Division (Nehemiah 5:1-19)

- A. There was strife among the workers.
- B. Often the greatest harm that can be done to the church is by its own members fussing and quarreling with each other.
- C. Nehemiah didn’t allow this to fester, but immediately confronted them.

V. Nehemiah Faced the Temptation of Compromise (Nehemiah 6:1-4)

- A. His enemies now pretend to be friends, but they sought to do him mischief.
- B. There can be no fellowship between good and evil, the forces of Satan and the Lord’s church.

VI. Nehemiah Faced Slander from His Enemies (Nehemiah 6:5-9)

- A. Nehemiah’s enemies informed him that they would accuse him of rebellion.
- B. Nehemiah simply denied the charges and continued to work.
- C. Our life ought to be such that it can stand on its own merits against false charges.

- Conclusion:
1. Despite all the opposition 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.”