

NEHEMIAH: ◉
◉

OVERCOMING!

DISCOURAGEMENT

NEHEMIAH 4:1-6

¹ When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews,

NEHEMIAH 4:1-6

² and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

NEHEMIAH 4:1-6

³ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

NEHEMIAH 4:1-6

⁴ Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

NEHEMIAH 4:1-6

⁶ So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

Opposition brings
discouragement

Sanballat insults...

NEHEMIAH 4:1

¹ When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews,

Lies of discouragement...

Lies of discouragement...

- You are inadequate

NEHEMIAH 4:2

2a ...“What are those feeble Jews doing?”...

NEHEMIAH 4:3

3a ...“What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

Discouragement focuses on
our insecurity instead of
on God's ability.

Remember what God can do.

Lies of discouragement...

- You are inadequate
- You are on your own

NEHEMIAH 4:2

2b ...“Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices?”...

Discouragement distracts us
from what God is doing.

Recognize that God is active.

Lies of discouragement...

- You are inadequate
- You are on your own
- You are beyond repair

NEHEMIAH 4:2

2^c ...Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”...

Discouragement steals God's
hope from our lives.

Rely on God.

1 PETER 2:4-6

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—
⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 2:4-6

⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”



Build on the foundation of Jesus

How do we overcome
discouragement?

Trust in God

Nehemiah prays...

NEHEMIAH 4:4-5

⁴ Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

- Be honest about discouragement

- Be honest about discouragement

NEHEMIAH 4:4

4^a Hear us, our God, for we are despised...

- ▶ If the offense is against me
personally = Forgive

MATTHEW 6:12

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- ▶ If the offense is against me personally = Forgive
- ▶ If the offense is against God = God will take care of himself

ROMANS 12:18-20

¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

ROMANS 12:18-20

²⁰ On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals
on his head.”

- Be honest about discouragement
- Bring your discouragement to God

NEHEMIAH 4:4-5

^{4b} ...Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

- Be honest about discouragement
- Bring your discouragement to God
- Don't stop. Keep building. Keep going.

NEHEMIAH 4:6

⁶ So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.



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