

NEHEMIAH: 

OVERCOMING!

ACCUSATIONS

NEHEMIAH 2:17

¹⁷ Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”

NEHEMIAH 2:18

^{18a} I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me...

NEHEMIAH 2:18

^{18b} ...They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

NEHEMIAH 2:19

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

“Get a friend to tell you your faults, or better still, welcome an enemy who will watch you keenly and sting you savagely. What a blessing such an irritating critic will be to a wise man, what an intolerable nuisance to a fool!”

—CHARLES SPURGEON

**Some critics are right, but
watch out for those who...**

**Some critics are right, but
watch out for those who...**

- **Have a lot to lose**

NEHEMIAH 2:19

^{19a} ...Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab...

**Some critics are right, but
watch out for those who...**

- **Have a lot to lose**
- **Resort to personal insults**

NEHEMIAH 2:19

19b ...they mocked and ridiculed us...

**Some critics are right, but
watch out for those who...**

- **Have a lot to lose**
- **Resort to personal insults**
- **Go after your motives**

NEHEMIAH 2:19

19c ...“Are you rebelling against the king?”

**How should we respond
to false accusations?**

The best way to handle criticism is to respond quickly, directly, and sensitively.

—DR. RICHARD C. HALVERSON

NEHEMIAH 2:20

²⁰ I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

Nehemiah...

NEHEMIAH:
OVERCOMING!

Nehemiah...

- Refused their assumptions

NEHEMIAH 2:20

20c ...as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

“Consider the source. And consider the possibility that the job may have come from an injured heart. Dismiss it and move on. If you don't, you may become the very thing you despise.”

—**CRAIG GROESCHEL, *CONFESSIONS OF A PASTOR***

Nehemiah...

- Refused their assumptions
- Refocused on the mission

NEHEMIAH 2:20

20b ...We his servants will start rebuilding...

I don't know who makes the greatest violins in the world, but we'll imagine that it's an Italian violin maker named Franco and that Franco has a studio where 15 or 20 apprentice and journeyman violin makers work alongside Franco making the most exquisite violins in the world.

Is Franco happy? He is alternately ecstatic, frustrated, transported, confused, exhausted and lost in the zone.... No one would say about Franco or his employees "They're happy." Instead, people in Franco's town would say "Those guys live and breathe violins, and people around the world rejoice."

—LIZ RYAN, *FORBES*

MATTHEW 28:19-20

19a Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...

20b ...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Nehemiah...

- Refused their assumptions
- Refocused on the mission
- Reaffirmed God's help

NEHEMIAH 2:20

20a ...“The God of heaven will give us success...”

1 PETER 2:23-24

²³ When they hurled their insults at him [Jesus], he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 PETER 2:23-24

24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”



NEHEMIAH:
OVERCOMING!