

DEALING WITH OUTSIDE CRITICISM

56 Days Of Nehemiah – Part 4

August 26, 2007

John 16:33b (NIV) *“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

OBSERVATION: It’s not a matter of _____ you
will encounter opposition, but _____.

THREE FORMS OF OPPOSITION...

1. _____...

Nehemiah 4:1-3 (NIV) *“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. **He ridiculed the Jews,** 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?’ ³ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, ‘What they are building--if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!’ ”*

..._____ keeps you focused.

PRAYER: Nehemiah 4:4-5 (NIV) *“Hear us, O 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.”*

PLAN: Nehemiah 4:6 (NIV) *“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, **for the people worked with all their heart.**”*

2. _____...

Nehemiah 4:7-8, 11 (NIV) *“But when **Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites** and the **men of Ashdod** heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸ **They all plotted together** to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ¹¹ Also our enemies said, ‘Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.’ ”*

..._____ is what you pray for.

PRAYER: Nehemiah 4:9a (NIV) *“But we prayed to our God...”*

PLAN: Nehemiah 4:9b (NIV) *“...and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.”*

3. _____...

Nehemiah 4:10 & 12 (NIV) *“Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, ‘The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.’¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, ‘Wherever you turn, they will attack us.’”*

..._____ is what you/they need.

PRAISE: Nehemiah 4:14a (NIV) *“After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome...”*

PLAN: Nehemiah was led to...

• _____

Nehemiah 4:14b (NIV) *“...And fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”*

• _____

Nehemiah 4:16 (NIV) *“From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah.”*

• _____

Nehemiah 4:19-20 (NIV) *“Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, ‘The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall.’²⁰ **Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!**”*

**Question: Will you depend upon God
when opposition comes?**