



THE CAMPUS CHURCH  
LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND PEOPLE

## Restore

### *Nehemiah 4 – Dealing with opposition*

#### Why do people oppose the work of God?

- They are \_\_\_\_\_
- They are \_\_\_\_\_
- They have a different \_\_\_\_\_
- They are afraid of being \_\_\_\_\_ or forgotten
- They have a fear of \_\_\_\_\_ - love of tradition and the way things are

#### How do people oppose the work of God?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He **ridiculed** the Jews, <sup>2</sup> 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?” <sup>3</sup> 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!” (4:1-3)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. <sup>8</sup> They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>10</sup> 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.” <sup>11</sup> 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.” <sup>12</sup> Then the

Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

#### How did Nehemiah deal with Opposition?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (4:4-5)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ - **Work with all your heart (4:6)**

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

3. \_\_\_\_\_ – **Nehemiah called for a greater expression of partnership and for everyone to protect each other.**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

<sup>16</sup> 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 <sup>17</sup> who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, <sup>18</sup> and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked.

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (4:14) – **remember what this is all about.**

“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

5. \_\_\_\_\_ – **Keep your eyes on Jesus**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such **opposition** from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1 -3