



CHAPTER 4 VERSES 1-23

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Nehemiah 4:1 - 2

1 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?

Nehemiah 4:3 – 5

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!”

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 4:6 – 8

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

7 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. **8** They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.



Nehemiah 4:9 – 11

9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

10 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.”

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.”



Nehemiah 4:12 - 13

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

13 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.



Nehemiah 4:14 - 15

14 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, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.



Nehemiah 4:16 – 18

16 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 **17** who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, **18** and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. (N)

Nehemiah 4:19 – 21

19 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!”

21 So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out.



Nehemiah 4:22 - 23

22 At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” **23** Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.





CELEBRATION OF LIFE
LOUISA JAINE
HALE

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FLOURISHING IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION



NO REGRETS

MEN'S CONFERENCE

John 15:20

Remember the words I spoke to you:
'No servant is greater than his
master.' If they persecuted me, they
will persecute you also. If they
obeyed my teaching, they will obey
yours also.



2 Timothy 3:10 – 13

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.



**Overcoming opposition
requires unyielding
meekness.**



Meekness is the opposite of **wrath**, not confidence or assertiveness. That's why there can be "ferocious" or "unyielding" meekness.

Wrath is self-important, destructive anger that leads to sin in the face of conflict.

Meekness is self-forgetful constructive zeal to do what is good in the face of conflict.



1. Anyone who builds must prepare for wrath.

Nehemiah 4:1

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



Applications:

1. Be acquainted with wrath
2. Know how evil is done and how good is accomplished
3. Be mentally ready for opposition
4. By disciplined faith respond without wrath
5. By developed faith respond to wrath with meekness

2. Anyone who builds must prepare for weakness

Nehemiah 4:10

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the labourers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."



Nehemiah 4:12

Then the Jews **who lived near them**
came and told us ten times over,
"Wherever you turn, they will attack us."



Intimidation is designed to soften defenses by breaking unity and resolve.



ESV Nehemiah 4:8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.



Applications:

1. Expect the natural weakening of motivation
2. Apply faith to zeal and against sloth

Romans 12:11

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.



3. Responding to opposition requires unyielding meekness

Nehemiah 4:6a "So we build the wall..."



4 acts of unyielding meekness:

- 1. Pray and act together**
- 2. Keep moving forward (FITRD)**
- 3. Look for new opportunities**
- 4. Hold absolute integrity**



1. Pray *and* act together

Nehemiah always prays and then does something faithful:

1. Keeps building the wall
2. Sets out guards at night
3. Accommodates refugees
4. Changes structure of the building project
5. Prepares defenses



2. Keep moving forward (FITRD)

If you can keep moving forward, do so. There is never going to be a good time to do this without opposition.



3. Look for new opportunities

Stay flexible even when you are pushing through something.

Sometimes, opportunities arise in the midst of standing up against opposition.



4. Hold absolute integrity

This is *especially* not the time to indulge entitlement

Nehemiah 4:23

Neither / nor *my* brothers nor *my* men nor the guards *with me* took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.



Applications





FLOURISHING IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION