

“WHAT ARE YOU TO DO WHEN DISCOURAGEMENT COMES?”

(Nehemiah 4:10-23)

I. OPPOSITION TO THE WORK IN THE FORM OF RIDICULE (4:1-9)

II. FEAR ARISES AND NEHEMIAH PROVIDES A SOLUTION (4:10-23)

A. DISCOURAGEMENT Among the Jewish People (4:10-12)

1. The people of Judah had their own complaints, they were physically and psychologically _____ and there seemed to be _____ to all the work. (v. 10)
 - a. When criticisms prevail, some people are _____ to _____ them. (Matt. 18:15-16; 1 Tim. 5:19)
 - b. The _____ of some had _____ from the Lord’s will and work to their trial some circumstances. (Matt. 14:22-33)

2. The atmosphere at the construction site was becoming more and more _____ because of all the _____ of death threats. (v. 11)
 - a. While the enemies of Judah used ridicule (vv. 2-3), Satan now used _____ as his key weapon.
 - b. Pressures from _____ often creates problems from _____.

3. The Jews were so concerned about the situation that they _____ to Nehemiah _____ times. (v. 12)

B. Nehemiah's STRATEGY (4:13-15)

1. Nehemiah took the threats _____, and he posted guards at the most vulnerable places on the wall; he even _____ entire families with weapons. (v. 13)
2. Being a godly leader, he gathered the leaders together to _____ the people of just how "*great and awesome*" the _____ was. (v. 14, cf. Deut. 3:22; 20:3-4; 31:5-6)
3. When the enemy saw that their _____ attack had been foiled, they abandoned the idea; God had _____ their wicked plot. (v. 15, cf. Ps. 33:10-11)

C. The SWORD and TROWEL (4:16-23)

1. Nehemiah knew that he couldn't interrupt the work every time he heard a new rumor, so he set up a defense plan that solved the problem...
 - a. One crew _____ on the wall while another crew _____, but everyone was armed. (vv. 16-18)
 - b. Because the people were spread out, the sound of the _____ was the signal for _____. (vv. 19-20a)
2. Nehemiah reminded the people again and again, "*Our _____ will _____ for us.*" (v. 20b, cf. Ps. 127:1)

* How can you personally apply this truth?