

Nehemiah Lesson 6

Building Ministry Through Opposition

Day 1 Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 Accept Ridicule

1. In our opening illustration, we spoke about John Brown of Haddington who encountered opposition as he sought to follow a path to ministry. We used the phrase **“Opposition doesn’t define us. It refines us.”** Explain what this means, and give an example of this truth from your own life. _____

2. Why should we expect there to be opposition while seeking to build ministry as a local body of believers? (1 Pet 4:12) What should be our response? (1 Peter 2:20) _____

3. In verse 1 of chapter 4, it says that Sanballat **“became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews.”** What is the enemy’s desired result from ridicule? How does Satan use this weapon to destroy ministry **“without firing a shot”**? _____

4. Anger is **“an emotional response to a perceived wrong, and a feeling of outrage when perceiving or meditating upon injustice”**. What is the injustice Sanballat feels? How is this idolatry? _____

5. How will understanding the answer to question 4 help you **“accept ridicule”**? _____

6. How does Nehemiah respond in verse 4? To whom does he take his frustration? Is this a call for revenge? Explain and give other Biblical examples. _____

7. Nehemiah doesn’t just pray and then sit in a corner. What does he do? (v. 6). Apply this concept to building ministry through opposition. Give an example of what this would look like in the church. _____

Day 2 Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 Expect Confrontation

1. The enemy's anger increases as they move from ridicule to confrontation. How does Nehemiah respond in verse 9? What is the proper understanding of trusting God and being proactive? Is it attitude? Is it action? Explain. (4:9, Phil 2:12-13) _____

2. How can the statement "**Let go and let God**" be abused? Give an example. _____

Day 3 Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 Deal with Discouragement

1. It is easy to get down when facing opposition for trying to do God's work. What is a typical reaction by most people in the church when opposition is encountered? On what misconception is this based? _____

2. If you were teaching a membership class, how would you prepare someone for ministry (and correct this misconception)? Be specific as to how you would teach what is expected of them and what to expect. _____

3. Read what Nehemiah does in verses 13-14 and translate as though you were writing today encouraging fellow Believers facing doctrinal attacks. (Eph 6:10-16) _____

Day 4 Read Nehemiah 4:1-23 Never Rest on Your Laurels

1. Even though the enemy retreats, Nehemiah does not rest. In fact he ramps up security. In what way has the evangelical church ignored this principle and is now paying the price? _____

2. If we commit ourselves to rebuild the wall (grow in holiness) and reform the people (discipleship), we will be labeled unfairly. Relate how we as a body can respond by praying and being proactive. _____

