

Restoring Foundations

Restoring Confidence (Faith in Action): Nehemiah 4:1-23

1. Read Nehemiah 4:1-3 & 2:10, 17-19. Who opposed the Jews, what is the nature of the opposition, and who is their audience? Why do you think the opposers ridicule the Jews in front of those that they did?
2. Read Nehemiah 4:4-5, Psalm 62:1-8, and Psalm 79:9-13. How did Nehemiah respond? In whom did Nehemiah and Psalmists place their trust? What encouragement do you receive from these verses?
3. Read Matthew 5:10-12 & 43-48, and John 15:18-21. What should we expect from the world as we do the work of Christ? How do you see this type of opposition in the world today? How have you personally experienced this opposition? How have you responded? How does Jesus teach us to respond to opposition?
4. Read Nehemiah 4:6 with Colossians 3:23-24. What action was taken in response to the opposition and what was the attitude of those doing the work? Why do you think they built the wall half way up all the way around rather than just focusing on one section at a time? What do these verses reveal to us about our attitude, effort, and our focus as we work together to achieve God's mission within the church?
5. Read Nehemiah 4:7-9 & 2:20, Ephesians 6:12, and 2 Corinthians 4:7-9. How does the opposition escalate and what is the response? What did Nehemiah believe would bring them success? What is really behind all opposition to those who are committed to do God's work? How do these verses encourage you?
6. Read Nehemiah 4:10-14, Romans 8:28-39 and James 1:2-4. How do the people respond to the increasing opposition? How does Nehemiah respond? Why do you think God did not remove the opposition? What does this teach you about God, godly leadership, and how you can stand in the face of opposition?
7. Read Nehemiah 4:15-23, 1 Corinthians 16:13, and 1 Peter 5:7-10. What instructions did Nehemiah give? How would you describe a day and night in the life of the Jews at that time? How would this impact their productivity? How do you think the outcome would have been different if Nehemiah had reacted in fear rather than acting in faith? What do these verses teach us about our enemy and how we are to react to these attacks?
8. Read Hebrews 10:32-39. How are you encouraged to face opposition with prayer and action as Nehemiah did? What action will you take as a result of this study?