

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED (Lesson 5 - Nehemiah) Overcoming Opposition in Completing God's Work

Nehemiah records the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem following Israel's seventy year Babylonian Captivity which was accomplished in a miraculous 52 days, despite the fact the project encountered strong opposition.

THE WEAPONS OF THE ENEMY & NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

1. QUESTIONING MOTIVES (Nehemiah 2: 10 & 17-20)

2. RIDICULE (Nehemiah 4: 1-6)

3. INTIMIDATION (Nehemiah 4: 7-9)

4. FEAR & DISCOURAGEMENT (Nehemiah 4: 10-20)

5. GREED (Nehemiah 5: 1-13)

6. COMPROMISE (Nehemiah 6: 1-4)

7. CHARACTER ASSASSINATION (Nehemiah 6: 5-9)

8. CONSPIRACY FROM WITHIN (Nehemiah 6: 10-16)

LESSONS TO LIVE BY TODAY IN OVERCOMING OPPOSITION TO COMPLETE GOD'S WORK

1. Accept the fact that opposition against God's work will be inevitable, innumerable, and inescapable, but when it comes, **REJOICE!** Why? Opposition comes against success not failure. The **BRIGHTER** God's people shine for Christ, the more **VISIBLE** a target we make for the enemy.

2. When opposition comes don't get defensive, but take the offensive through **PRAYER**. Talk more to **GOD** than to your **CRITICS**. Follow Nehemiah's pattern of prayer (Nehemiah 1: 3-11).

- Praise God for His **GREATNESS**.
- Remind God of His **PROMISES**.
- Repent of all **SIN**.
- Surrender human **INABILITY** as an opportunity for God to demonstrate His **INVINCIBILITY**.
- Be specific in prayer to get specific **ANSWERS**.

3. Put feet to your prayers by **STAYING AT THE WORK**. The one thing the opposition never was able to stop in the book of Nehemiah was God's people mixing the mortar and passing another brick. Personal involvement, sacrifice, & persistence will always be necessary to complete God's work.

4. From God's perspective the character development of His people is more important than the completion of His work. This is not to say God is not committed to accomplishing His work, but rather, an acknowledgment that the **SUCCESS** of God's work is dependent on the **PURITY** of God's workers.

5. Power to complete God's work is found in the **UNITY** of God's workers as they lay aside differences that could divide, in order to come together for God's glory to complete God's work.