

Rebuild #5

Opposition!

(Nehemiah 4:1-23)

Introduction

Every time we move forward in what God wants us to do there will be opposition. In Nehemiah 4 we see psychological warfare, physical threats and personal discouragement. Yet, Jerusalem's wall was rebuilt!

Nehemiah shows us how to deal wisely and well with opposition.



Sermon points

1. Opposition takes many forms
2. Opposition requires a response
3. Opposition creates opportunities
4. Opposition remains a reality

Discussion starter

What kind of opposition have you faced as a Christian?
How do you typically deal with opposition?

From the Bible

1. How do Sanballat, Tobiah and others try to discourage the builders (v1-3, 7-8)?
2. How did Nehemiah respond to opposition (v4, 6, 9, 14)?
3. What did Nehemiah pray for (v4-5)?
4. What was the result and why (v6,15, 20)? Cf. 6:15



Think it through

1. Jesus faced opposition when he came to do God's work. What kind of opposition did Jesus face? How did he respond?
(Note: John 15:18-20)
2. What opposition do we face as Christians? How should we deal with opposition?

Note: In Ephesians 2:1-3 we see that the 3 great opponents of every Christian is **the World** (the world's way of doing things opposed to Christ), **the Flesh** (our own sinful desires and wrong priorities) and **the Devil** (cf. Ephesians 6:12).

3. Nehemiah urged the slightly flagging people of God to keep at it! The Apostle Paul also urges us, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*
How can you encourage others in your small group and ministry team?



Pray

Pray for those facing opposition and discouragement that God would keep them going.

Pray for our church's ministry leaders.

Pray that God would rebuild our church family as we seek to be a light to the community.