

## NEHEMIAH – REBUILDING WHAT IS BROKEN

### Part 3 - GETTING THINGS DONE IN TOUGH TIMES

CUPBEARER – Nehemiah 1:1-2:10  
BUILDER – Nehemiah 2:11-6:19

#### I. SOLITUDE

(Nehemiah 2:10) When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard *of it*, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.

##### **Getting Started**

(Nehemiah 2:11) So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.

##### ***Midnight Ride***

(Nehemiah 2:12) Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

##### ***The Work That Outsiders Never See***

(Nehemiah 2:16) And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

***“Character is what you are when no one is looking.”***

(Nehemiah 2:15) So I went up in the night by the valley, and **viewed** the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned.

**Viewed** – examined...inspected...probing a wound – looked carefully at

***Getting clarity***

#### II. MOTIVATION

(Nehemiah 2:17) Then I said to them, "You see the distress that **we** are in, how Jerusalem *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let **us** build the wall of Jerusalem, that **we** may no longer be a reproach."

- Nehemiah *identified* with his people.
- Didn't hide the hard facts

“Based on the best information you can get, be ruthlessly honest about the situation facing you, and never lose faith that things will get better in the end.”

– Stockdale Doctrine

**HERE’S THE PROBLEM  
HERE’S THE SOLUTION  
LET’S GET IT DONE - MOTIVATION**

- **He Gave them the “Why”**

(Nehemiah 2:17b) “...Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, ***that we may no longer be a reproach.***”

### ***NEHEMIAH’S MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH***

(Nehemiah 2:18a) “And I told them of ***the hand of my God*** which had been good upon me, and also of the ***king's words*** that he had spoken to me.”

### ***THEIR RESPONSE***

(Nehemiah 2:18b) So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to *this good work*.

## **III. OPPOSITION**

### **Ridicule**

(Nehemiah 2:19) But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard *of it*, they ***laughed at us and despised us***, and said, "What *is* this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"

### **Get Tough Policy**

(Nehemiah 2:20) So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

**“Follow God.”**

## HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO CRITICISM?

- Evaluate the attitude of the critic.
- Consider the voice your critic listens to
- What credentials do they have to offer criticism
- What right do they have to criticize you
- Keep your Focus on God
- Remember where your strength comes from

### 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

7 “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— *always* carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”

**God delights in using imperfect people.**

## WHEN YOU ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING, THE ENEMY WILL RAGE

(Psalm 2:1) “Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?”

- **Remember: Every Criticism Is Not Of The Devil**
- **Determine the SOURCE of the criticism**
- **Determine the MOTIVATION of the criticism**

(Nehemiah 4:1) But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews.

(Nehemiah 4:2) And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—*stones* that are burned?"

(Nehemiah 4:3) Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up *on it*, he will break down their stone wall."

- **Face Criticism Head On**
- **Pray for your Critics**

(Nehemiah 4:4) Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity!

(Nehemiah 4:5) Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked *You* to anger before the builders.

- **Don't be deterred from the task**

(Nehemiah 4:6) So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work.

- **Watch and Pray**

(Nehemiah 4:7) Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry,

(Nehemiah 4:8) and all of them conspired together to come *and* attack Jerusalem and create confusion.

(Nehemiah 4:9) Nevertheless **we made our prayer to our God**, and because of them **we set a watch against them day and night**.

- Q. What does your private life look like compared to your public life?
- Q. Give an example of a time you had to push through the hard brutal facts?
- Q. What are the best motivators in your life?
- Q. Can you think of a time you were criticized and good came out of it?  
How did that happen?
- Q. What does it mean to Watch and Pray?