

Self-Leadership

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Nehemiah 4:1-23

I. UNDERSTAND THE TACTICS OF OPPOSITION

1. FIRST TACTIC: _____ (vs. 1-3)

"When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are? Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, What are they building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!" **Nehemiah 4:1-3 (NIV)**

HOW A LEADER HANDLES OPPOSITION

2. SECOND TACTIC: _____ (vs. 6-8)

"So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it."

Nehemiah 4:6-8 (NIV)

3. THIRD TACTIC: _____ (vs. 11-12)

Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work."

Nehemiah 4:11 (NIV)

2 CHARACTERISTICS OF RUMORS

- **THEY ARE ALWAYS SPREAD BY THOSE _____ TO THE ENEMY**

"Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

Nehemiah 4:12 (NIV)

- **THEY ARE _____ THE MORE THEY ARE REPEATED**

* LEADERS DON'T BUY INTO _____ / _____

II. UNDERSTAND THE EFFECT OF OPPOSITION

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall. Also our enemies said, Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work."

Nehemiah 4:10–11 (NIV)

THE EFFECT: PEOPLE GOT _____

FOUR CAUSES OF DISCOURAGEMENT

- _____
"*...strength...giving out...*"

- _____
"*...so much rubble...*"

- _____
"*...we cannot rebuild...*"

- _____
"*...enemies will attack us...*"

III. EMPLOY THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE UNDER ATTACK?

1. RELY _____ (vs. 4-5)

"Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders." **Nehemiah 4:4-5 (NIV)**

*** WHEN UNDER ATTACK, DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON PEOPLE, _____**

MEMORY VERSE:

*Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
or you yourself will be just like him.*

Proverbs 26:4 (NIV)

2. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE

_____ (vs. 9)

"But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat." **Nehemiah 4:9 (NIV)**

**"WATCH & PRAY" (Matthew 26:41, NIV)
(Colossians 4:2, NIV) (1 Peter 5:8, NIV)**

3. _____ YOUR WEAK POINTS (vs. 13)

"So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows."
Nehemiah 4:13 (NLT)

* GOOD LEADERS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE

_____ (vs. 16-18)

4. _____ THE SITUATION AND _____ GOD'S GREATNESS

"After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

Nehemiah 4:14 (NIV)

F.E.A.R. = FALSE EVIDENCE APPEARING REAL

5. _____ WHO'S ON YOUR SIDE

"Our enemies heard that we had found out what they were plotting, and they realized that God had defeated their plans. Then all of us went back to rebuilding the wall."

Nehemiah 4:15 (GNB)

He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's."

2 Chronicles 20:15 (NIV)

6. LEADERS MUST _____ AND _____ AT THE SAME TIME

*"But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm." **Nehemiah 4:16–18 (NLT)***

7. DON'T LET _____ STOP THE GREAT WORK

That Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me harm. So I sent messengers to them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you? But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner."

Nehemiah 6:2-4 (NKJV)

I WILL _____ AND FIGHT AT THE SAME TIME

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS:

- ✓ I will memorize **Proverbs 26:4 (NIV)**
- ✓ I will accept Christ for the first time
- ✓ I will join the New Life church family
- ✓ I will sign up for the next baptism

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