



Week 4: Protect Externally

“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

“The best way to protect externally is to fight internally.”

A. The Attacks

1. Certain

“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews...” Nehemiah 4:1 (NIV)

2. Relentless

“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...” Nehemiah 4:7-8a (NIV)

3. Winnable

“When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.” Nehemiah 4:15 (NIV)

“Our obedience gives way to God’s victory.”

B. The Responses

1. Prayer

“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...” Nehemiah 4:4-5a (NIV)

“Nehemiah looked out and saw distraction, but when he looked up he saw deliverance.”

2. Progress

“Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked... So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out.” Nehemiah 4:17b-18a, 21 (NIV)

“Fear is the enemy of progress.” – Winston Churchill

3. Watchfulness

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

“God sends the wind, but you must set the sails.”
-Steve Wagers

C. The Attitudes

1. Tenacity-The halfway wall

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.” Nehemiah 4:6 (NIV)

2. Unity-The common foe

“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, Who is great and awesome...” Nehemiah 4:14b (NIV)

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

3. Humility-Not about you

“Fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” Nehemiah 4:14c (NIV)

“...the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” Revelation 21:8 (NIV)

D. The Application?

1. Are you aware of any *attacks* in your life?
2. What has your *response* been to ridicule/difficult people? What should it be?
3. What is your *attitude* towards opposition/challenge?

"I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed, for I have the Holy Spirit's power. The die has been cast and I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made, for I am a disciple of Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. Therefore, I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go 'til He comes, give 'til I drop, preach 'til all know and work 'til He stops me." -Steve Wagers

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202

Next Sunday: Protect Internally (*Nehemiah 5-6:10*)

