

You Are There:
Nehemiah
“Rebuilder of Walls & Lives”
October 30th, 2011

Leadership Challenges

- **Ridicule**

Nehemiah 4:1-3 Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, “What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?” Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!”

- **Conspiracy**

Nehemiah 4:6-8 At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm. But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion.

- **Intimidation**

Nehemiah 4:11-12 Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.” The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!”

The Impact of the Challenge

Nehemiah 4:10 Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.”

FATIGUE – “the strength of the laborers is giving out”

FRUSTRATION – “there was so much rubble”

FAILURE – “we cannot rebuild the wall”

FEAR – “the enemies will attack us”

How to be an Effective Leader

- **Rely on God**

Nehemiah 4:4-5 Then I prayed, “Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders.”

- **Recognize the Challenge**

Nehemiah 4:9 But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

- **Wisely Use Your God Given Resources**

Nehemiah 4:13 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 4:16-18 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.

- **Inspire Your People**

Nehemiah 4:14 Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!"

- **Refuse To Quit**

Nehemiah 4:15 When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall.

Lessons from Nehemiah:

The first step of any venture is to pray!

People under God's directions can accomplish impossible tasks!

There are two parts to real service for God: Talking with him and Walking with him.