

SERMON SERIES: Nehemiah
SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer
DATE: March 5, 2017



Key Line

When you begin the process of rebuilding you can count on opposition.

Introduction

What is like to begin a project and be met with criticism or opposition?
How does it affect your work efforts?
How have you handled it?

Seek the Word

In Nehemiah chapter 3 all of the people went to work rebuilding sections of the wall. Read chapter 4 to catch up with the story (if your group has time you can read chapter 3 as well.)

- Discuss the main events of the chapter.
- What does criticism cause in the people building the wall?
- How do they handle it?

Talk About It

When God has called us to some work to be done, how should we handle opposition?

- What does Nehemiah do in verse 14 in response to seeing the fear of his people?
 - How do you go about “remembering the Lord?”
 - How have you seen His faithfulness in the past?
 - How could you use some of these verses that Scott shared as encouragement and as a reminder?
 - 1 Samuel 17:47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."
 - Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
 - Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - Luke 18:27 Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."
 - Does anyone in the group have other Scriptures they use and would want to share?
 - What do you do when you are tempted to listen to what people say above what you know God is saying?

- When Nehemiah first saw the opposition, his response was to pray. (verses 4-5)
 - What was his prayer like?
 - Have you prayed in this way before?
 - How do you feel about it?
 - Can you go to God with your honest feelings?
 - What do you think He does with our deepest feelings in prayer?
- Finally, after prayer Nehemiah and the people take action.
 - How does taking action impact your circumstances?
 - Have there been times when you were waiting on God after prayer?
 - What if you are asking God to do what He is asking you to do?
 - How does it feel to think of His answers as a partnership between you and God - one where He does His part and you do yours?
- Scott's challenge this week is "Don't be a quitter."
- How can you help each other with that in your group?
- Have you checked in on what each person is giving up for Lent?
- You may want to read this verse together as you prepare to end with prayer.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

Bible Reading Plan

Join us as a church family as we read through the Old and New Testaments. Download the reading plan at calvary.ch/readthebible/ or on the Calvary.ch App