

Nehemiah:

“Building Kingdom Lives, Homes, Jobs,
And Service For God”

“How To Cope With Criticism”
Nehemiah 4:1-13

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Nehemiah 4:1-13

I. The Cause of Criticism

A. Anger (vs 1)

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.

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Nehemiah 4:1-13

I. The Cause of Criticism

B. Absolutism (vs 1)

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.

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I. The Cause of Criticism

C. Arrogance (vs 2)

²And 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?”

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I. The Cause of Criticism

D. Assurances (vs 3)

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.”

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II. Our Courage Under Criticism

A. A Prayer for Humility (vs 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!

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II. Our Courage Under Criticism

B. A Plea for Civility (vs 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!

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II. Our Courage Under Criticism

C. A Plea of Consistency (vs 6)

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.

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II. Our Courage Under Criticism

D. A Plan of Sensibility (vs 7-8)

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, 8 and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.

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II. Our Courage Under Criticism

E. A Protection of Spirituality (vs 9,13)

9 Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night. 10 Then Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall.” 11 And our adversaries said, “They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease.”

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Nehemiah 4:1-13

II. Our Courage Under Criticism

E. A Protection of Spirituality (vs 9,13)

12 So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, “From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us.” 13 Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows

“Questions”

- 1. What is the cause of criticism?**
- 2. What is the solution to the temptation of being critical?**
- 3. How do we deal with critical people?**
- 4. Does it help to pray for people who criticize us?**
- 5. How do we love who people who criticize us?**