

Nehemiah:

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

“How to Defeat Discouragement”
Nehemiah 4:7-20

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Nehemiah 4:7-20

I. The Crisis of Discouragement (vs 7-12)

A. It is caused by overwhelming circumstances (vs 7- 8)

7 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. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

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I. The Crisis of Discouragement (vs 7-12)

B. It is creating a feeling of hopelessness (vs 10b)

10 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.”

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I. The Crisis of Discouragement (vs 7-12)

C. It is creating a sense of horror (vs 11)

11 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.”

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I. The Crisis of Discouragement (vs 7-12)

D. It is creating an atmosphere of heaviness (vs 12)

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

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II. The Character of Discouragement (vs 7, 10)

A. It creates a sense of helplessness (vs 10a)

10 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.”

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II. The Character of Discouragement (vs 7, 10)

B. It's compounded by maliciousness (vs 7)

7 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.

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III. The Crushing of Discouragement (vs 14,19-21)

A. Denounce Your Fears (vs 14a)

14 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.”

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III. The Crushing of Discouragement (vs 14,19-21)

- B. Describe Your Lord (vs 14b)**

14 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.”

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III. The Crushing of Discouragement (vs 14,19-21)

C. Define Your Cause (vs 14c)

14 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.”

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III. The Crushing of Discouragement (vs 14,19-21)

- D. Depend on Your Friends (4:19)**

**19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people,
“The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated
from each other along the wall.**

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III. The Crushing of Discouragement (vs 14,19-21)

E. Defend your Ground (4:20)

20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

“Questions”

1. What is the crisis of discouragement?
2. What is the character of discouragement?
3. How do you denounce your fears and describe your Lord?
4. What does it mean to define your cause and depend on your friends?
5. Explain "Defend your Ground"

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7 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.

8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

10 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.”

11 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.”

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

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13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

14 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.”

15 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.

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah

17 who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other,

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18 and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

21 So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out.