

Dealing with Discouragement¹

Nehemiah 4:10-23

PROPOSITION: In spite of the opposition, the Jews rebuilt the walls around the city of Jerusalem and teach us how to deal with discouragement.

INTRODUCTION:

1. When God's people have a mind to work, the devil has a mind to stop them.
2. Notice how the devil uses discouragement in Nehemiah 4:7-12.

DISCUSSION: Please notice...

I. The Curse of Discouragement.

- A. The people of Judah were beginning to give reasons for their discouragement (v. 10).
- B. Even good people are susceptible.

II. The Cause of Discouragement.

- A. The Jews were worn out (v. 10).
- B. The Jews were weighed down.
 1. "We will never get it all done."
 2. Cf. Matthew 6:34.
- C. The Jews were wrought up.
 1. They felt vulnerable (vv. 11, 12).
 2. Some wouldn't work at all (3:5).
 3. The devil can do more damage working inside the camp than outside.

III. The Cure of Discouragement.

- A. Nehemiah armed the people (v. 13)
- B. Nehemiah assured the people (v. 14).
- C. Nehemiah aroused the people (v. 14).
- D. Nehemiah applied the people (getting them involved; v. 15).
- E. Nehemiah assembled the people (vv. 16-20).
- F. Nehemiah admonished the people (vv. 21-23).

CONCLUSION:

1. Be encouraged. You can be a child of the King.
2. You can commit your life to the Lord, and He will give you abundant life (John 10:10).

¹ From lesson of the same title by Doug Parsons, *The Preacher's Periodical*, Vol. 6, No. 3, August 1985, pp. 16-18. Adapted by Andy Kizer.