Nehemiah 4 - Resolve

Study Guide – Reference Verses

Tactics are old, not new

2 Corinthians 2:11 So that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Love your enemies

Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Strength in weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Discouragement from within

Nehemiah 6:17-19 Moreover, in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife. Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the tactics that are employed by the opposition in chapter 4? We know that their goal is to get the people to cease in their work, but how is the opposition through these tactics hoping to attain that goal?
2. How does Nehemiah respond to ridicule?
3. All the enemies of Jerusalem come together in a conspiracy against the Nehemiah and the people. Why is it that the world has no problem finding a common goal and working together yet it seems difficult for Christian's to work together?
4. Why did this discouragement rise from the tribe of Judah?

Notes: