

October 23, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Rebuild // The Story of Nehemiah
Episode 5: Rubble and Rabble
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Nehemiah 4:10-18

Vs. 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." ¹¹Also 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." ¹²Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us." ¹³Therefore 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. ¹⁴After 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." ¹⁵When 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. ¹⁶From 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 ¹⁷who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.*

Opposition to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem came in 3 forms: RUBBLE, RABBLE AND RELATIVES

1. **RUBBLE: Vs. 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."*
This was untrue. History tells that they did rebuild the wall.
2. **RABBLE: Vs. 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."*
 - a. **This was untrue.** Their enemies never entered the city.
3. **RELATIVES: Vs. 12** *Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."*
 - a. **This was untrue.** They were never attacked.

"History is a set of lies agreed upon." — Napoleon Bonaparte

Nehemiah's 3 keys to victory: RESPONSE, RELATIONSHIPS, READINESS

1. **RESPONSE: Vs. 13-14** *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. ¹⁴After 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."*
 - a. Nehemiah **started** with and **secured** the **lowest points** and the **exposed places**.
 - b. Nehemiah "**stood up**" and testified with **courage and conviction**.
2. **RELATIONSHIPS: Vs. 16-17** *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 ¹⁷who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked.*
 - a. Walls are built and maintained with the mortar of strategic relationships.
3. **READINESS: Vs. 17** *But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.*

It's kinda hard to sound an alarm if you don't own a trumpet.

Small Group Questions:

1. Nehemiah dealt with opposition from 3 fronts, rubble, rabble and relatives. Which of these most resonates with you?
2. Victory is found in our response. The scripture says, "Therefore, I stationed". How good are you at proper and godly responses?
3. What lies have you agreed with that might be stopping the progress of you rebuilding the walls in your life?
4. Victory is won through strategic relationships. How are yours? Are you supported by God fearing and encouraging people?
5. It's kinda hard to sound an alarm if you don't own a trumpet. How's your readiness? Are you *maybe* asleep at the wheel?