

# “Nehemiah-A Lesson in Problems”

## Neh. 2:1-8

### Introduction

- I. Nehemiah, the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, had a desire to return to his homeland and rebuild the wall around Jerusalem (Neh. 1:2-4; 2:5).
- II. His efforts were met with various difficulties, which when examined, can help us to learn how to handle our own problems.

### Discussion

- I. Problem # 1-critics and derision
  - A. Sanballat and Tobiah “mocked” the efforts of the Jews (Neh. 4:1-3).
  - B. Nehemiah's response was a prayer to God (Neh. 4:4-5).
    1. Nehemiah and the Jews could have allowed the mockery to dissuade them.
    2. Instead, the Jews “had a mind to work” (Neh. 4:6).
  - C. Christians have critics and derision.
    1. First century Christians did not allow themselves to be overcome with discouragement (Acts 4:23-31).
    2. We must not allow ourselves to be hindered by criticisms and ridicule (Matt. 5:10-12; Gal. 6:9; 2 Tim. 3:12).
- II. Problem # 2-physical intimidation
  - A. There was a conspiracy to war against Jerusalem and the Jews (Neh. 4:7-12).
  - B. Nehemiah's response was to encourage and edify the Jews (Neh. 4:13-14).
    1. Preparation took place, but the work continued (Neh. 4:15-21)
    2. The Jews did not allow the threat of war to stop them (Neh. 4:22-23).
  - C. Christians need to be prepared for spiritual warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; Jude 3).
- III. Problem # 3-trouble from within
  - A. Some Jews were taking advantage of their brethren (Neh. 5:1-5).
  - B. Nehemiah's response was not to allow the problem to continue (Neh. 5:6-12).
  - C. Christians can have problems with other brethren (Matt. 18:15-17; cf. Gal. 5:15).
- IV. Problem # 4-efforts to compromise
  - A. Since their efforts had not been successful, Sanballat, Tobiah, and their allies wanted the Jews to compromise (Neh. 6:1-7).
  - B. Nehemiah's response was to reject compromise (Neh. 6:3-4-15).
  - C. Christians must reject compromise with evil (Matt. 15:9; Titus 1:13-14; Gal. 2:4-5).

### Conclusion

- I. Nehemiah faced many problems.
- II. His responses are useful for learning how to deal with modern day problems.