Building for Our Future: Overcoming Obstacles

Brent Moody · Nehemiah 6:1–19

INTRODUCTION

- Opportunity and opposition usually go together. And the greater the opportunity, the greater the opposition.
- For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Opposition Is Going to Happen

Nehemiah 2:20

- Opposition is going to happen. It's inevitable.
- We his servants will rise and build, but you have no portion, no right or claim.
- There are external obstacles, but we're also going to see there's some internal problems that also have to be dealt with.

2 Don't Let External Opposition Stop God's Work

Nehemiah 6:3; Ezra 4:2–3; Ephesians 6

- You don't let external opposition stop God's work.
- He says, I'm doing a great work and I cannot come down.
- We have too great a work to be messing around with that.
- You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God. We alone will build to the Lord.
- The external opposition is going to be there, and we need to be prepared for it.

3 Internal Obstacles: Fear and Discouragement

Nehemiah 4:10; Nehemiah 4:14; Nehemiah 5

- The way we face those is with grace and with compassion.
- The strength of those who bear the burden is failing. There's too much rubble by ourselves, we will not be able to rebuild the wall.
- Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord who is great and awesome. And fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.
- He listens to the things that they're struggling with, and then he finds a way to answer it in an understanding and compassionate way.
- He's leading by sacrificing himself and showing people what is more important, not his needs, but working for the purposes of the Lord.

4 Influenced by Worldly Thinking and Connections

Nehemiah 6:17–19

- God's people can be influenced by worldly thinking and connections. We can't be naive about that.
- The nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. For many of them were bound by oath to him.
- The warning for all of us is to not allow worldly influence into our hearts and into our minds and into the work of God's kingdom.
- Who cares what they think? We're going to do a great work.
- Beware of alliances and influences.

5 How Nehemiah Has Judgment and Discernment

Nehemiah 5:6–7; Matthew 10:16

- Nehemiah is a man of prayer.
- Sometimes we need those moments to take counsel with ourselves and make sure we're not being influenced by the voices around us.
- The second thing is he refuses to act out of fear. Or to be reactive.
- Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
- The last point is the idea of dealing with internal problems and conflicts with integrity and with compassion.

THE CHALLENGE

Maybe this morning you realize you need to be a part of that. I hope you do if you haven't already.

MY NOTES