Shield, Sword, Spear, & Shovel

Tony Mauck · Nehemiah 4

INTRODUCTION

- Do you believe that God is at work in your life? Do you believe that God can work through you to powerfully advance his cause in the world?
- Sometimes I think we forget how stupendous, shocking, and awesome, God's creation is.
- What else is marvelous is when the faithful people of God persevere through trial.

1 Faith and Fortitude Prevails

Nehemiah 4:1–3; Nehemiah 4:14; Nehemiah 4:16–17

- Nehemiah and the Jews are only seeking to build walls for their own protection.
- As the walls are being built, tension comes. There is significant opposition from two sources, Sanbalat and Tobiah.
- So we built the wall, and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.
- 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 houses.
- You see, the enemies made one fatal miscalculation. They did not consider God in their plans.
- Those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work, and the other hand holding a weapon.

2 God Saves Through Trust and Route

Nehemiah 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22

- God saved at different times in different ways.
- But that's not the norm. Most commonly, faithful participation is involved.
- The Lord will fight for you. Trust. The Lord will fight for you. But they must rally.
- We must supply the faith. We must trust and we must rally to the benefits of our brothers.
- First, you look forward and you pray. Second, you move forward and you act.
- Sword in one hand, tool in the other. And isn't it interesting that the word of God is styled sword of the Spirit?

3 The Influence of a Godly Leader

- Nehemiah did not direct people to his leadership style and his skills and how awesome he was as a leader.
- When he saw their fear, he directed them to God. He didn't say, I'm the answer.
- A good leader says, it is God who is the answer. It is not about us.
- It's never all about you. It's always all about him.

4 One of Satan's Greatest Tools Is Discouragement

- One of Satan's greatest tools is discouragement. He's all the time telling us you can't do it. You can't win.
- You're weak. You're powerless. You're incapable of winning. And you know what? He would be absolutely right. If you don't factor our powerful God.
- Pitiful me. I should know better. I should have done better.
- My favorite sermon that I preach now twenty-one times in five years. Maintain your confidence.

5 The Greater Shield

- You only thought when I mentioned shield that I was talking about the peoples and their shields. I'm talking about the greater shield.
- He is my shield. He is my glory, the lifter of my head.
- The Lord gives grace and glory. No good thing will he withhold from those who walk.

THE CHALLENGE

Is God at work? You believe God is at work. Do you believe that he is powerfully using you to advance his cause.

MY NOTES