

**All Citizens Christian Church Calgary**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024. **Topic: THE NEHEMIAH CHRISTIAN Part 2**

**THE BUILDING, THE OPPOSITION AND THE UNITY**

**Show me a man who has no opposition and I will show you a man who is failing.**

**Text: Nehemiah 3 and 4**

Nothing amuses me more than when Christians as perceived as morons or at best mediocre. In actual sense some of the smartest persons I have interacted with are Christians. Many believers have allowed themselves to be talked into believing that Christianity is equivalent to not being intelligent. Any Christian that is dumb is dumb because he chose to be. The book we rea d as Christians which is the Bible is one of the most quoted books on earth. The Christian could be accused of being simple, but accusing the Christian of being dumb is a mighty error. The time it takes to study the pattern of Nehemiah and the Jews in Jerusalem is worth it. As it is a study in management.

Chapter 2 ends in opposition and how it was withstood. While chapter 3 begins with the beginning of the wall. This ran through the entire chapter. Chapter four deals with opposition and how they resisted it

**OUTLINE**

It is a bit difficult to break Chapter 3 into portions because the chapter looks very seamless. However, there is a lot to be learnt from what happened in the chapter. First let us note that with a united front nothing is impossible.

What generates unity are

General interest: Neh. 2:17. Gen 11:4, Exodus 36: 6-7, Acts 4:32

Focus: Neh. 2:18 (Let us arise and build), Neh. 4:6, Gen 11:8-9

Leadership: Neh. 4:13-14.18. Where there is no leadership, there is no progress. Focus will be in various directions. It is the leader that generates the focus.

That is the job of a father in a home.

**WITH A UNITED FRONT, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE**

The beginning of leadership is to devise a strategy for a complex work.

No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all

**WHAT WAS NEHEMIAH’S STRATEGY.**

1. Break a complex job into segments. Luke 10:1, Matt 10:1

Neh. 4: 13-17,20 Compare verse 13 with 17. Do you notice a pattern change.

**WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS STRATEGY?**

1. It creates a healthy competition
2. It eliminates redundancy and gives room for excellent use of human resources and time.
3. People get personally committed to their area of focus and invariably the entire project. Neh 4:6
4. It gives room for ownership Neh. 4:6,
5. It eliminates collision.
6. It gives room for specialization and hence things become faster. Check all the drivers that have driven for up to ten years and compare them .with a new driver. Does it take you some time to get used to a truck if you have not driven one before? Do you think the regular driver or that truck has the same feeling as you?
7. It gives room for discretion as decisions could be made within each building block without calling Nehemiah Neh. 3:1

In leadership, never expect everyone to go with you even if you were sent by God. Neh. 3:5. And some of these people might be nobles and the elites. Opposition from the lower ranks do not cause much pain.

How can we use such a strategy in a family and how could we utilize it in church building? Acts 6:2. Exo. 18:14-21

**OPPOSITION AND LIFE’S CHALLENGES.**

One would have thought that after the challenges of Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem in Chapter 2, everything will begin to go smoothly. That did not happen. Oppositions were continuous and their strategies were constantly changing. In life as you progress the strategies of your enemies or your opposers change.

What do mockers want to achieve?

Why will a person at the position of Nehemiah undertake such a huge challenge?

**STEPS IN OPPOSITION**

1. Your enemies are disturbed about your progress or when their desires do not happen. Matt 2:16, Neh. 2:10, 19, 4:7. Note the words heard. Our enemies are disturbed by our progress while hey celebrate our downfall. So if you hear or see your enemies disturbed know that you are doing well.
2. Fear and manipulations Neh. 2:19,
3. Anger, mockery and ridicule: Neh. 4:1-3 (if you consider these things, you will get discouraged)
4. The enemy will make you see the difficulty in achieving your goal. Whenever you focus too hard of what distracts you, the devil might just be in the works.
5. Intense anger and strategy to disrupt – Attack and confusion: Neh. 4:7-8

Our enemies will utilize this principle to disrupt our progress in our businesses, our homes, our spiritual lives etc.,

**HOW TO WITHSTAND OUR ENEMIES**

Don’t hate them: Luke 6:27-36 (Neh. 4:4-5) Jesus came and gave us a new commandment. He is not cancelling the old commandment (Matt 5:17), He wants us to climb unto a higher law.

1. Watch and pray: Neh. 4:4,9.
2. Be Focused Neh. 4:6 be determined to accomplish the task that the Lord has set before you. Remember that if you decided to throw stones at every dog that barks at you, you will not arrive at your destination or you will get there late.
3. Let them know that you are not going to back down. Neh. 2:20
4. Take on them in unity – Ecc. 4:9-12, (Unity in Family) Disunity creates a passive target in warfare. Unity makes every target active and it is harder to aim at an active target.
5. Always be ahead of your enemies in their plans Neh. 4:11-15
6. Make executable plans Neh.4:13-20
7. Encourage the people. Neh. 4: 19
8. Make the people see their objective. Let them know that this is not for nothing. Neh. 4:14
9. Be an effective leader. As a leader, know how to handle internal discouragement. Neh. 4:10-14. Encourage the people and take practical decisions to let them know that you’ve got it under control., Neh. 4:10-14, 18, 23, make the people own the work – 14. 1) Station guards at obvious weak points, 2) Keep your weapons close to you, 3.) Create 24/7 watch stations.
10. The power of communication for progress: Neh. 4:18-20. The first thing that destroys a plan is lack of communication. It destroys a team and it ruins a family. Always find a means of communicating amongst yourselves. Communication must not just be a sound but it must be understood by the trumpeter and the responders. It was very re-assuring to know that there is a trumpet.

When you take practical steps to achieve your objectives, you demoralize your enemies Neh. 4:15.

What is the advantage of the strategy taken by Nehemiah in verse 16. It was to give room for maximum concentration. That way you are not looking at your back when you are working because you know someone is looking out for you. When we are focused on possible dangers, it is difficult to get anything done.

CONCLUSION:

The Nehemiah Christian is the Christian that takes decisions, is a Christian that depends on God. Is a Christian that believes in unity. A Christian that knows the strategy to apply from time to time. A Christian who can teach a language that all would understand.