



## Nehemiah: The Wall Builder

### Nehemiah 4 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. <sup>2</sup>And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, 'What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?'

<sup>6</sup>So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. <sup>7</sup>But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry...

<sup>10</sup>In Judah it was said, 'The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.' ...

<sup>14</sup>'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.' ...

<sup>16</sup>From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, <sup>17</sup>who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. <sup>18</sup>And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. <sup>19</sup>And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, 'The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. <sup>20</sup>In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.'

<sup>21</sup>So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out."

### Nehemiah 5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. <sup>2</sup>For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." <sup>3</sup>There were also those who said, 'We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine.' <sup>4</sup>And there were those who said, 'We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards.' <sup>5</sup>Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards.'

The cry of those in need...

- ◇ We are **starving**
- ◇ We are **turning** on one another
- ◇ We are **oppressed**

Broken people can not wait till they are whole in order to help other broken people. The church should be broken people helping broken people.

### Small Group Questions

1. Tough questions to start with! What are you doing to help the poor and needy of this world? Are you passing this cause or passion onto your children and/or the next generation?
2. Why is it so easy to get caught up in our own "building projects" and lose sight of the less fortunate? What are some things we can do to assure this does not happen?
3. Have you ever been on a mission trip? If yes, would you share a few "highs and lows" from the trip? If no, what is preventing you from exploring the possibility?
4. What could your family or small group do together to help those in need?