

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

RESTORED

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

Lesson 6 – Hurtful Comments

Nehemiah 4:1-11

Nehemiah had come to Jerusalem to rebuild and restore not to fight! Unfortunately, when he arrived he met opposition. There were enemies awaiting him who had only one thing on their minds – to crush the work. These enemies stood at the wall trying to discourage the workers and keep the wall in disarray. Sound familiar? The world we live and work in is a battle zone. There is no shortage of enemies to bombard us with hurtful comments to dishearten us and keep us from God's best. But, just like Nehemiah and his team of workers, we don't have to let our enemies defeat us. As children of God, we have the powerful weapon of prayer and our all-sufficient God to fight for us. Nehemiah didn't listen to these discouragers but went right on with the work of God. That's a powerful lesson for us today! We can't always keep people from talking against us, but we can refuse to succumb to their words and instead keep our focus on God and what He has called us to do.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: Nehemiah 4:1-11

¹But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. ²And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?" ³Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall." ⁴Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! ⁵Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders. ⁶So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. ⁷Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, ⁸and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. ⁹Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of

them we set a watch against them day and night. ¹⁰Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."
¹¹And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."

This Week's Memory Verse:

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.

Isaiah 54:17(NKJV)

1. Look up John 16:33 and write the truth that Jesus told us in your own words. _____

2. In this world, we will have tribulation and as soon as Nehemiah began his work, his tribulation began. Nehemiah was mocked and ridiculed in an attempt to discourage the work God ordained him to do. Likewise, when we answer the call to serve our Lord, many times we too come against opposition. We may be opposed by friends, co-workers and even family! What encouragement does 1 Corinthians 15:58 give us when we see this happening? _____

3. Being steadfast in the midst of opposition can be difficult and often we want to respond in the same manner that our enemy has treated us. But, that is not how we see Nehemiah responding. Read Nehemiah 4:4-5. How does Nehemiah react to Tobiah and Sanballat? Why do you think he responded this way? _____

4. According to Psalm 34:17, what promise is there when we cry out to God in time of need? _____
