Never Quit...Never Give Up!
Nehemiah 4:9, 14, 20; 6:9, 16

Sermon Outline

A. Don’t Allow Fear to Disarm Us; Pray (4:9, 14):

1. The people were continuously engaged in intercessory prayer.
2. Pray continuously and engage in intercessory prayer.
3. They placed people to be in a place along the wall. This became their official position and they were determined not to move.
4. Take action when trouble comes.
5. The Jews set up guard posts with attendants who were committed to keep watch for the attack of their enemies.
6. Find a good support system of people who truly love God (James 5:16).
7. After careful evaluation, Nehemiah completely understood the emotional state of the people.
8. Nehemiah made a firm decision to get up and address the issue.
9. What Nehemiah said, he planned to keep saying until he was completely understood.
10. Nehemiah kept telling them that they did not need to continuously live under emotional duress worrying about the enemies’ attempts to harm them.
11. Our fears must not control the direction we take.
12. Nehemiah commands them to make a mental note by directing their attention to what God has done for them.

➢ The best way to dispel fear is to remember the Lord, who alone is to be feared (Dt. 3:22; 20:3; 31:6).

13. Remember never to forget God’s faithfulness.
14. The Lord is a mighty majestic ruler who has all authority and power and is faithful to maintain His relationship with Israel.
15. The Lord is mighty and majestic and is always in control.
16. The Lord alone is great.
17. The enemy has no power against the Lord who alone is great.
18. God must be reverenced and feared.
19. Reverence and fear God; not our fears.
20. The people must be ready to pick up weapons and be ready to defend their families.
21. Our confidence in who God is must direct our faith.

B. Remember the Battle is the Lord’s (4:20; 6:9):

1. They must give their undivided attention to the sound of the trumpet. They must have a complete understanding of what to do when they hear it.
2. The God of Salvation who created all things and judges the earth must be reverence by all men.
3. The God of Salvation is all powerful and judges all things.
4. Even though God has called them to arms, He will fight the battle for them.
5. God is our warrior and He fights for us.
6. The enemy was going to try to cause the people to live under emotional duress by keeping them believing that they were going to harm them.

➤ Nehemiah recognized the psychological warfare of the enemies. The same verb translated “frighten” in v. 9 is repeated again in vv. 13, 14, 19, where it is translated “intimidate” (lit., “to make afraid”). The different forms of opposition in this chapter were all intended to instill fear in Nehemiah and his helpers so they would not continue the work. The words “but I prayed” are not in the Hebrew text but are added to identify the clause “now strengthen my hands” as a prayer to God.\[1\]

7. God is our protector so do not worry about being harmed.
8. The constant threat of attacks caused the people to want to back down from working and eventually abandon the rebuilding process.
9. The hard labor of the people may be abandoned because of the threat of being attacked.
10. The enemies’ threats may cause the people to stop feeling obligated to faithfully labor at rebuilding the wall.
11. No one should cause us to stop doing what God instructs us to do.
12. Nehemiah asks God to make him physically and morally strong so that he can steadfastly lead the people forward.

1. Continued opposition to the building of the wall consisted of three plots against Nehemiah. First, the enemy tried to lure Nehemiah away from Jerusalem where he could be kidnapped or put to death (6:2). Ono was a village situated about twenty miles northwest of Jerusalem. Second, Nehemiah was accused of rebelling against Persian rule (6:5–6). Third, they tried to lure Nehemiah into breaking the Jewish law by entering the temple (6:10–13); a privilege reserved only for priests (Num. 1:51; 18:7).\[2\]

2. The enemies’ self-confidence dissipated as they saw that the work was done with God’s help. Opposing Him, they were fighting a losing battle! One reason Tobiah the Ammonite (cf. 2:10, 19) was able to make some inroads into Judah was that he was related to the Jews in two ways (also cf. 13:4). His father-in-law was Shecaniah son of Arah (cf. Ezra 2:5), and his daughter-in-law was the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah, who worked on two sections of the wall (Neh. 3:4, 30). Many Jews were therefore loyalists to Tobiah, perhaps having trading contracts with him, and they kept telling Nehemiah good things about Tobiah. Yet Tobiah tried to intimidate the governor-builder with threatening letters.\[3\]

13. Nehemiah asks God to help him remain steadfast in leading the people.
14. Nehemiah needs God’s strength to enable him to do all that he has been delegated with authority to execute.

C. Victory is at the Finish Line (6:16):

1. The completion of the wall was continuously communicated to all of their enemies.
2. No matter the struggles, God blessed them to complete the wall.
3. Their enemies gave their undivided attention and developed a complete understanding that the wall was completed.
4. All the nations made a careful inspection of the wall and clearly understood that it was complete.
5. The enemies carefully inspected the wall and knew it was done.
6. Their enemies had no more courage to seek to attack them and stop the rebuilding process. (1 Peter 5:6-10).
7. All the skillful labor that was placed into building the wall was completed.
8. Because everyone did not quit working, the wall was completed.
9. The deep commitment of the people to labor and toil for the completion of the wall was completed by the creative power of God.