Dealing with Discouragement  
Nehemiah 4:1-9  
Sermon Outline

A. Discouragement…….. Words (vs. 1-3):

1. It seemed like God was going to allow Sanballat’s opposition to never stop.
2. It seemed like Sanballat had given his complete attention to what was taking place and had a thorough understanding of the intentions of the Jews.
3. The Jews were fully engaged in rebuilding the wall.
4. Sanballat became so very angry that he continuously frets about the Jews being in full strength rebuilding the wall.
5. Sanballat became exasperated and he began planning what he needed to do to stop the work.
6. Sanballat was set on talking with others about what he planned to do.
7. What Sanballat said was in front of his brother and all the influential people of Samaria.
8. Sanballat asked everyone in his presence if the Jews were going to be allowed to continually entrust themselves with the rebuilding of the wall.
9. Sanballat also asked the question if the Jews will be so consumed with rebuilding the wall that they will continually work to complete the wall.
10. Sanballat was concerned that the Jews would be able to bring back to life the stones from the dusty rubble.
11. Because of Sanballat was extremely angry and was very concerned about the work of the Jews Tobiah spoke up.
12. The construction was taking place.
13. They mocked the Jews by telling them on fox can get on the wall try it down.

B. Call on God to Fight Your Battle (vs. 4-5):

1. Nehemiah commands God to provide him His undivided attention so that God can come to a full understanding of what is going on.
2. The work being done is being viewed with disdain and contempt to the point where they can be rejected. The work can be stopped. So, Nehemiah prays:
   a) Nehemiah wanted God to take all the mocking and taunting and turn it back on Sanballat and his friends so that they do not accomplish what they are seeking and planning to do.
      - Nehemiah prays for them to experience the very thing they mock (vs. 4).
   b) Nehemiah asked God to put them in the hands of their enemies so that it becomes a generous gift to those who oppose them.
   c) Nehemiah does not what to conceal or cover over what sin they commit. In order words God, does not provide mercy towards them.
d) Nehemiah does not want God to let what the Samaritans do against God and man to be continuously removed.

3. The constant attacks against the building despite how sinful the Samaritans are having everyone completely stirred up and exasperated.

C. Stay Focused on the Task at Hand (vs. 6):

1. Despite everyone being exasperated they never stopped the construction process.
2. The people worked in unity for the same purpose (Philippians 2:1-2).
3. The people were unified in a sustained relationship and it was a large group of them.
4. The people deepest and innermost feelings were completely disposed using their wisdom and understanding for the building of the walls.
5. The fear and exasperation that was taking place did not overwhelm them emotionally so that they did not have the inner strength to build.
6. They understood and was completely committed to do what God had set before them to do. God did not miraculously rebuild the wall. He left for them to do. God is always focused on us working (Adam, work to eat, work in the church, whatever your hands find to do) it is the world that says win the lottery so don’t have to work. The world is always opposite (that is what the word world means) to what God teaches.
7. The people felt obligated to faithfully toil, with a deep commitment to get the wall rebuilt.

D. Remain Prayerful Especially when Opposition Intensifies (vs. 7-9):

1. When all their enemies gave their undivided attention so that they came to a full understanding that the wall was still being repaired they were angry.
2. Despite how heavy the work became the people were completely focused on pressing on.
3. The word began relates to wounds that came from war. As it relates to the wall it is all the thorn down places that is a result of the war that was fatal or created a horrible life for many people in Judah that was being repaired.
4. Their enemies were very heated with anger and were continuously fretful.
5. Their enemies intensified their determination to stop the work by coming together obligating themselves by pledging to stop the work.
6. They were committed to go down to Jerusalem and fulfill what they committed to do. They were not going to stop until they complete it.
7. They planned to pick up weapons and be in full conflict against Jerusalem.
8. They were going to cause people to stagger from their work because they are drunk with conflict.
9. The people were continuously engaged in intercessory prayer.
10. They placed people to be in place, that were their official position with a heart not to move.
11. They Jews set up guard post with attendants who were committed to keep watch for the attack of their enemies.