

“Setbacks Into Comebacks” Message Series

Sunday, April 28, 2024 @ 10:30AM | Worship Center

When You Feel Like Giving Up!



Nehemiah 4:6-14 (NIV): ⁶So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. ⁷But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat. ¹⁰Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." ¹¹Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work." ¹²Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us." ¹³Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

It is much easier to start something than it is to complete it. If at first you don't succeed, don't panic; just reorganize, refocus, and resist quitting!

Four Setbacks that can cause discouragement...

1. When something takes longer than expected.

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."
Nehemiah 4:10a (NIV)

"Never forget how the Amalekites...attacked you when you were exhausted and weary, and they struck down those who began to lag behind..." Deuteronomy 25:18 (NLT)

2. When something is more complicated than expected.

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”
Nehemiah 4:10b (NIV)

“Come, Lord, and show me your mercy, for I feel helpless, overwhelmed, and in deep distress.” Psalm 25:16 (LB)

3. When I start to doubt my own ability.

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”
Nehemiah 4:10c (NIV)

4. When the opposition grows stronger.

“Meanwhile our enemies are threatening to kill us in order to stop this work.” Nehemiah 4:11 (NIV)

Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.” Nehemiah 4:12 (NIV)

“Be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to the day of completion in Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

Three things Nehemiah did...

1. Reorganize whatever is not working.

“So I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable places of the wall and assigned people by families with their swords, lances, and bows.”
Nehemiah 4:13 (MSG)

“not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25 (NASB)

2. Refocus on God.

14. After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

Nehemiah 4:14a (NIV)

(Jonah) "When I had lost all hope I turned my thoughts once again to the Lord." Jonah 2:7 (LB)

(David) "I'm completely discouraged. Revive me by your Word!" Psalm 119:25 (LB)

3. Resist the discouragement.

14. After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." Nehemiah 4:14b (NIV)

"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7 (NASB)

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