

Technical Difficulties  
Nehemiah 4-5

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble -- burned as they are?" Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building -- if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones." (Nehemiah 4:1-3)

**Key Verse:**

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance." --Romans 5:3

1. The **Word** of God tells us to **expect** difficult days. (John 16:33)

***In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.***"

2. The **Will** of God doesn't **exempt** us from difficult days. (1 Pet.4:19)

Therefore, ***those also who suffer according to the will of God*** shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

3. The **work** of God will **expose** us to difficult days. (Heb. 11:37)

"They were stoned, sawn in two, tempted, put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated."

- I. Difficult people will attack you with **insults**. (Neh. 4:2)

He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing?"

1. These insults were intended to bring **discouragement**. (Neh. 4:3)

Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, ***"What they are building -- if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones."***

2. These insults led to prayerful **dependence**. (Neh. 4:4-5)

***Hear us, O our God, for we are despised.*** Turn their insults back on their own heads.

3. These insults resulted in renewed **determination**. (Neh. 4:6)

So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, ***for the people worked with all their heart.***

- II. Difficult people will attack you with **intimidation**. (Neh. 4:7-9)

Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry.

1. This Intimidation was used to cause a **disturbance**. (Neh. 4:8)

All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.

2. This Intimidation led to practicing a daily **discipline**. (Neh. 4:9)

But ***we prayed to our God*** and posted a guard ***day and night*** to meet this threat.

3. This intimidation resulted in a heightened awareness of **danger**.  
But we prayed to our God and ***posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.***

III. Difficult people will attack you through an **insurgence**. (Neh. 4:10)  
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.***"

1. This insurgence is intended to bring **despair**. (Neh. 4:11-12)

Also 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." ***Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."***

2. This insurgence led to exposing points of **danger**. (Neh. 4:13-15)

Therefore 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. 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 brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

3. The response to this insurgence led to the enemies **defeat**. (v.15)

When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work.

**let your  
faith  
be bigger  
than your  
fear**