



## Sermon Series Notes

### "Fighting For One Another" (Nehemiah 4: 10-23)

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Intro: This is a continuation of what we covered last week on staying alert against the enemy. The enemy is real, and he is after not only you and me, but our "brothers, sons, daughters, wives, and homes" (v.14b)

#### I. THE TEXT

v.10 They are halfway home (v.6), but now the people are tired

v.11 The enemy is planning a surprise attack; note last week's point of posting a guard so that we might not be caught off guard

v.12 These are people that have heard the enemy's plans and come to their brothers with a serious warning

\* Note: These people spread discouragement among those doing the work. Why were *they* not involved in the work?

\* Another way to translate this would be "Whatever place you turn to they are against us, so you need to be on your guard on all sides."

\* This is a perfect time for the enemy to come against them in a united attack (v.8). They have made considerable progress, but the workers are tired, there's a lot of rubble still to be dealt with, & people who live near the enemy are bringing very discouraging news about plans for an attack.

\* They no doubt felt like quitting. And if left without a leader like Nehemiah, they might have quit.

\* Gal.5: 7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?

v.13 Families were stationed to assist at places where there was the most vulnerability. These families are equipped to do battle on behalf of those most vulnerable to the attack of the enemy

v.14 In other words, let's fight for one another

v.15 How exactly did God frustrate the plans of the enemy?

vv.16-18 Now that we know the enemy is making plans and looking for an opportunity to attack us, we will **always** be prepared for an attack NEVER let your guard down!

vv.19-20 We are widely separated The purpose of the trumpet? It was a call to come and help at a particular place on the wall.

\* How do we blow the trumpet here at CCSP? Announcements, bulletin, etc.

vv.21-23 It's at night when the enemy is most active

## II. LESSONS

### A. Don't Be Surprised By Fatigue In The Work

\* Great progress has been made, but the work has worn them out, and there's still a lot of rubble (not only building to do, but clean up as well).

### B. Don't Give In To Fear And Discouragement

#### 1. Fear

- The twelve spies sent out by Moses

#### 2. Discouragement

- Discouragement is fueled by people spreading faithless comments like "we cannot rebuild the wall" & "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

- These people were away from the "assembly," listening to the enemy, and being filled with doubt and fear

- There was a lot of rubble, and they were tired. But what they needed was certainly not someone coming along with words of fear and discouragement!

- See Deut.20:1-9

### C. Nehemiah's Leadership (v.14)

\* Here's what's at stake if you give in - your brothers, sons, daughters, wives, and homes.

\* Don't be afraid, get your focus on the Lord (not the enemy), and fight for one another!

\* Braveheart (Show clip from movie?)

### D. How To Fight For One Another

#### 1. Remaining unified under Nehemiah's leadership

\* Luke 11: 17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.

\* If they respond in unity, the enemy will not gain access

\* My recent comments about the current administration in Washington. Someone was concerned that it was racist I am the minority on my street!

\* I am a conservative - against overspending, abortion, BIG government (God's warnings against Israel wanting a king; I Sam.8:11-20, homosexuality (as well as adultery; Adulterers Pride Parade?), kicking God out of our schools, teaching evolution without at least giving equal time to creation

\* We need some leaders in Washington with the kind of backbone and wisdom that Australian Prime Minister John Howard has. Read from article

## 2. Being involved in the work

\* If involved, I am in a position to fight for others, and for others to fight for me.

## 3. Families stationed at the lowest points

\* The lowest points are the most vulnerable

\* Knowing when I'm vulnerable

- I Cor.10: 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

- Prov.16: 18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

- Matt.26: 33 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

34 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

- When I'm tired; Elijah after victory on Mt. Carmel

- When I let my guard down

- When I'm alone (Peter, Satan has desired to sift you )

\* Power point of life groups

## 4. Every person always alert & carrying a weapon

\* There is one weapon we can all carry - the Word of God.

\* II Tim.3: 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

\* Teaching is only possible if we're willing to listen

\* Rev.3: 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

\* Correcting is changing direction after going the wrong direction. Correction only happens after one is willing to receive the rebuke of the Word.

\* Training is sitting under the Word, being in the Word, saturating your life with Word, and living out what it says

- Denying self, self-control...James 1:17

- The Word of God fills us with faith rather than fear when we believe what it says

#### 5. Responding to particular needs when the trumpet is blown

\* The trumpet signals there is a need at a particular point along the wall.

\* Stories of people in trouble and no one wanted to get involved?

- Kitty Genovese

\* Article on "Bystander effect"

#### CONCLUSION

\* You've come so far in rebuilding the wall of your life lots of rubble you're tired people around you are perhaps speaking words of fear and discouragement don't give up, rather, link with a family that can fight for you

\* What call has gone out that you have personally responded to?