



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

February 24, 2013

re:build

desert breeze community church

Nehemiah 4:1-23 “Opposition”

What is Satan’s most effective scheme against you? Is it Pride, Anger, Envy, Lust, Greed, Gluttony or Laziness?

NO...Discouragement, resulting from Opposition!

Have you felt like giving up lately? How do you press on beyond those quitting points? 2Cor4:7-9

THE TACTICS OF OPPOSITION Eph6:10-12; 1Pet5:8

1ST TACTIC: Criticism (vv1-3) Humiliate

2nd TACTIC: Life Threatened (vv6-8) Intimidate

3rd TACTIC: Gossip (vv11-12) Exaggerate

THE EFFECTS OF OPPOSITION vv10-11

The Effect: Discouragement Pro15:13, 18:14; Ps42:11

When does this usually occur? Halfway through because of misplaced hope v6; Pro13:12

Discouragement causes us to lose our...

→ Strength “Strength... is failing” v10a

→ Vision “there is too much rubble” v10b

→ Confidence “we will not be able to rebuild” v10c

→ Security “enemies will...kill us” v11

THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION

(What do you do when you’re under attack?)

1) Recalibrate your ID in Christ through Prayer. vv4, 9; Gal1:10

2) Reinforce your weak points & establish a rallying point. vv13, 17, 20; Heb3:12-13

3) Refuse to retaliate but take appropriate actions to protect yourself & others from harm. V4; Rom12:17-21; vv9, 16-23

4) Remember the Lord who is Great & Awesome. V14; 1John4:4

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.



Growing

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- 1)** How is the genuineness of a person's faith & commitment to Christ tested through opposition? How can opposition lead to discouragement & why do you think it's one of Satan's more effective schemes? What does Paul say is the key to his dealing successfully with opposition (2Cor4:7-9)?

- 2)** Read Nehemiah 4:1-23. What stands out to you from this text? What are the three tactics of opposition used against Nehemiah's efforts to rebuild? Behind the scenes aggravating the flesh & blood evil (society/sinful nature) is something that is not flesh and blood (Eph6:10-12; 1Pet5:8). Explain.

- 3)** The effects of opposition are discouragement. How would you define discouragement (Pro15:13, 18:14; Ps42:11)? When does discouragement most likely happen (v6; Pro13:12) & what four things does discouragement cause us to lose (vv10-11)?

- 4)** How does recalibrating your identity in Christ through prayer help to deal with criticism (vv4, 9)? Since there are physical, emotional & spiritual aspects to our discouragement, what does it mean to reinforce your weak points (v13)? What would a rallying point (v20) look like in our modern age (Heb3:12-13)?

- 5)** Why should we refuse to retaliate but take appropriate actions to protect our self & others from harm (V4; Rom12:17-21; vv9, 16-23)? Why do you think the ultimate cause of discouragement is unbelief (V14; Josh1:9; 1Jn4:4)? Pray that dbers have courage!