



Leadership Principles from Nehemiah
Lesson 5: Opposition & Problems

1. A leader will face negative attitudes.

Nehemiah 2:10

The first opposition we see in the ministry of Nehemiah is when he faced negative attitudes from others.

Sometimes opposition will come from people you least expect it to come from.

Sanballat and Tobiah were mixed in with God's people.

A leader must know the difference between _____
 and attacks from scornful people.

2. A leader will face the attack of belittlement.

Nehemiah 2:19

Nehemiah 4:1-3

As the work progresses, the enemy continued to use the weapon of ridicule. They made light of the zeal of the workmen and laughed at their workmanship, saying that even a nimble fox could knock down the wall.

Mockers often have a superior attitude. They will especially want to join after you have succeeded. Do not give these people much responsibility.

Mockers always want to do something other than what God has called you to do.

Notice how Nehemiah deals with this problem:

- _____

Nehemiah 2:20

- _____

Nehemiah 2:20

- _____

Nehemiah 4:4

- _____

Nehemiah 4:5

Romans 16:17, 18

- _____

Nehemiah 4:6-8

Nehemiah ignored their sarcasm, prayed to God, and continued to build.

Philippians 3:18, 19

3. A leader will face the attack of fear and discouragement.

Nehemiah 4:9-12

The devil attacks in _____

Nehemiah 4:10

Nehemiah had attacks from adversaries in verse eleven and from religious people in verse twelve.

Nehemiah 4:11

As you lead people, you are going to have to watch out for people who plant seeds of division amongst the brethren. (Sowers of discord)

Proverbs 6:16-19

God hates those who sow discord in the church.

How do people sow seeds? – _____

Nehemiah overcame the attack of fear by doing three things:

Nehemiah 4:13-15

- _____
- _____
- Focusing on the result of the vision.

Nehemiah 4:10

Fear breeds _____

Discouragement literally means that the people were robbed of their courage. If you do not have courage, you cannot fight.

Sometimes the job of a leader is to encourage the people. This means we speak words of life and faith that bring courage.

In verse thirteen Nehemiah arms the workmen.

Nehemiah 4:13

He encouraged the people with his words and equipped them to fight. This is still the job of leaders in the church today.

Nehemiah 4:17**4. A leader will face carnality.**

In Nehemiah chapter five the rich were taking advantage of the poor.

Not only did Nehemiah and his leadership rebuild the wall, but there was also a cry from the common people against the leaders and rulers for oppressing them. Nehemiah acted swiftly and justly. He rebuked all of the nobles and rulers for lending money on interest and demanded that all land taken from the Jews be returned.

A leader can overcome carnality by:

- _____

Nehemiah 5:7

- _____

Nehemiah 5:8

- _____

Nehemiah 5:13-19

5. A leader will face the attack of the temptation to compromise.

Nehemiah 6:1-4

We do not do everything for the sake of unity. Sometimes it is impossible to have unity. We must stick with the vision.

Do not go down to the village if God has given you the city!

6. A leader will face false accusations.

Nehemiah 6:5-9

A leader must stay strong if the people are influenced by such things.

7. A leader will face the attack of isolationism.

Nehemiah 6:10-15

There are many ways the devil can try to isolate a leader.

We see in the life of Nehemiah he did it through fear.

You overcome by:

- _____

Nehemiah 6:11

- _____

Nehemiah 6:12