

# **A Mind To Work**

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## **Slide 1**

Text Nehemiah 4-6. First, we notice that Nehemiah faced ridicule...

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...from without. Read Nehemiah 4:1-6. There were two men that were ridiculing Nehemiah, they were Sanballat and Tobiah.

Do we, the church, face ridicule today?

How should we react to ridicule? What did Nehemiah do?...

The same thing we should do, he prayed and kept on building - working.

Next, we see that Nehemiah faced rubbish...

## **Slide 3**

...from within. Read Nehemiah 4:10. Sanballat referred to this in 4:2 when he planted seeds of doubt that is beginning to bear fruit.

Often, before Truth and be planted the "rubbish of false teaching" must be removed.

So we must not become discouraged or give up when it comes to the work of the Lord. Nehemiah also faced attack...

## **Slide 4**

...from without. Read Nehemiah 4:7-23. When Nehemiah's enemies failed by using scorn and mockery they resorted to using force. But Nehemiah did not stop the work he was doing, instead he picked up arms and continued to pray and build.

Like Nehemiah we are in a battle with the Devil, so don't drop your tools and run instead pick up your sword the Word of God and keep on praying and working.

Then we see Nehemiah faced with...

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...greed from within. Read Nehemiah 5:1-6, 9-12. Satan had tried to stop the work by: Ridicule, planting seeds of doubt, by force and now by strife among the workers!

When there is strife among the workers not much gets accomplished. This problem still exists today; much harm is done to the Lord's church by its own members attacking one other by fussing and quarreling instead of attacking their enemy, Satan.

We must do as Nehemiah did and not allow disagreements to fester and divide the workers. The offenders must be confronted and condemned. That is what we must do for the Lord's work to move forward.

Nehemiah also faced...

### **Slide 6**

...compromise from without. Read Nehemiah 6:1-4. When all else fails, Satan will pretend to care and be your friend. He is all about compromise, he will say, "Can't we all just get along?" But do we need unity at all cost? No! We can not ever compromise the Truth!

We too must be careful when those that oppose us suddenly want to be our friends. Satan is only out to stop faithful followers of God from doing the work of the Lord. He tried his best to stop the work of the building of the wall but Nehemiah would not allow it.

There can never be fellowship between good and evil.

We see that Nehemiah faced...

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...slander from without. Read Nehemiah 6:5-9. Nehemiah's enemies said they were going to go to the King and accuse him of rebellion. Like children they were saying, "We are going to tell on you!" They were going to tell the King lies about Nehemiah. But remember, Nehemiah and the King were very close. The King knew the character of Nehemiah so Nehemiah had nothing to worry about. The King would know better. So Nehemiah just denied the charges and kept on working.

We need to live our lives like Nehemiah so that when false charges are made against us people know better.

Even with all of the distractions by Satan from within and from without the wall was completed...

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...in 52 days. As we have seen, Nehemiah had a lot of opposition in the building of the wall, but because of his faith and trust in God they were able to build the wall in only 52 days!

Nehemiah 6:15-16 says...

Let's notice some practical lessons that we have learned from Nehemiah...

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Go through the list making a few comments as you read each one.  
The one underlying key to their success is found in Nehemiah 4:6....

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...They had a mind to work! Do You?