



Mount Vernon
Baptist Church

Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor

REBUILDING my BROKEN WORLD



Through Nehemiah

When You Get Knocked Down

Nehemiah 4.1-6

Emmitt Smith rushed for over 18,000 yards over a series of 14 seasons – 10.5 miles total of running. It took him 14 years. He averaged 4.2 yards per carry. He was tackled and knocked down 4,409 times. Each time he would be knocked down, he got back up and ran again. He's got the record and in the Hall of Fame because he did this while having eleven guys on the other side trying to stop you. **The glory comes with the opposition.**

If it's so exciting to score a touchdown, why don't eleven of us just show up on a Thursday afternoon (instead of Saturday afternoon or Sunday afternoon) and just score goal after goal after goal? There's no glory in that. The glory only comes when one team is against the other. **The opposition brings the glory.**

God allows opposition in the works that he has given us. We make a personal decision to start reading our bibles on a daily basis, and soon opposition comes. We decide to share Christ with someone, and opposition comes to silence us. We decide to serve God with our gifts in His church, and opposition comes. You are raising your children as a single parent or in a marriage with an unbeliever, and opposition comes.

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

Satan hates you and has a terrible plan for your life.

See [John 10:10](#)

Opposition does not mean that you are out of God's will. It often confirms that you are in the middle of God's will. One preacher said, "If you never meet the devil on the road, it may be because you are walking in the same direction."

Nehemiah 2:19 says, "...they laughed at us and despised us, and said "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"

God uses people to accomplish His purposes, but satan also uses people to accomplish his purposes.

What are you going to do when opposition comes?

“[Sanballat] **belittled their qualities** (feeble Jews),
derided their ambitions (Will they restore their walls?),
mocked their optimism (Will they offer sacrifices? i.e., of thanksgiving and dedication when the wall is rebuilt),
lamponed their enthusiasm (Will they finish it in a day?),
undermined their confidence (Can they bring the stones back to life?), and
magnified their problems (those heaps of rubble— burned as they are).”^a

2 Corinthians 4:7-10: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

See also I Corinthians 16:9

What should we do when we face opposition?

1. We should ignore the ridicule (They did not try to answer their accusations)

2:20 – Nehemiah did answer them the first time, but they kept opposing, and so he ignored them.

- The devil wants you to waste all of your time trying to answer the accusations instead of focusing on what God wants you to do.

2. We should take it to the Lord (4:4-5)

v.4-5 – a prayer that asks God to remove the opposition.

He says, “They are not opposing us, they are opposing You!”

3. We should continue to work (4:6)

v.6 – “So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.”

In the northeastern United States, codfish are not only delectable, they are a big commercial business. There's a market for eastern cod all over, especially in sections farthest removed from the northeast coastline. But the public demand posed a problem to the shippers. At first they froze the cod, then shipped them elsewhere, but the freeze took away much of the flavor. So they experimented with shipping them alive, in tanks of seawater, but that proved even worse. Not only was it more expensive, the cod still lost its flavor, and in addition, became soft and mushy. The texture was seriously affected. Finally, some creative soul solved the problem in a most innovative manner. **The codfish were placed in the tank of water along with their natural enemy—the catfish. From the time the cod left the East Coast until it arrived in its westernmost destination, those ornery catfish chased the cod all over the tank! And you guessed it, when the cod arrived at the market, they were as fresh as when they were first caught. There was no loss of flavor nor was the texture affected. If anything, it was better than before.**^b

^a Raymond Brown, *The Message of Nehemiah* (Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1998), 72-73.

^b Excerpt taken from *Come Before Winter and Share My Hope*, copyright © 1985, 1988, 1994 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.