

Nehemiah (God is Faithful)

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Nehemiah 4

1 Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. 2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" 3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. 5 Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

- Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem were regional governors serving under the king of Persia, who had been driven from the Promised Land by God.
- **Where faith believes God and His promises, discouragement looks for and believes the worst.**

7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. 9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

- Mocking turns into a physical threat. This was a strategy of Satan – to create confusion among the people of God. Confused people will never move forward and fulfill God's work. Cf. John 10:9-16-21

2 Timothy 2:13 *if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*

Discipleship Homework:

Israel was mocked and threatened by outsiders, but their trust was that God remained faithful.

Spend some time reflecting a time you or someone you know were persecuted for doing something for God. How did you respond? How did God respond?

