

Series Quote: *The question of leadership is not if you are a leader, but what kind of leader you are.*

Sermon Premise: *Satan's goal is to keep you from God or to keep you from trying anything great for God.*

Nehemiah 4

I. Dealing with Your External Opponents
The Role of Ridicule

A. The Reason

1. _____ are always a target.

- Criticism can have value; before you _____ yourself, _____ yourself.

2. It's easier to ridicule than to _____.

1 Corinthians 1:25
For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

B. The Response

1. Realize that you are in _____.

John 5:20
Jesus said, "The servant is not greater than His Lord. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."

Luke 22:63
The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.

2. Tell _____ on them and move on.

- Ridicule creates _____.

3. Answer ridicule with _____.

- Leaders have a bent towards _____.

II. Dealing with Your Internal Opponents
The Cause of and Cure for Discouragement

A. The Cause

1. You are _____.

Discouragement may be Satan's most powerful tool.

When God's people have a mind to work, the devil has a mind to destroy.

- _____ is a cause for discouragement.

Galatians 6:9
Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

- Fatigue occurs when your focus is on the _____ instead of the finish line.

2. You are _____.

- _____ in your life brings discouragement to your heart.

Philippians 3:13
Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...

- When you fail to bury your _____, you fail to allow God to start building your future.

B. The Cure
Nehemiah's Plan of Action

1. He _____ his people
2. He _____ his people

- A primary role of a leader is to keep _____ alive.

Romans 8:31

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

- Discouragement comes when you fear the _____ too much and _____ too little.

3. He _____ his people

Acts 2:46-47

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

4. He _____ his people

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

*The Look of a Leader
Week 4*