



RE:BUILDING

Committed (Not Interested)

Sunday 15th March 2026
Nehemiah 4:1-6

1

God has enemies and therefore you have enemies. I sowed some seeds this week – let's refresh our minds. **John 15:18** says,

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

Jesus is getting out in front of the challenges and opposition you will face for following Him. There is now way to truly follow Jesus and not be hated. But Jesus also said in **John 15:25**,

But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

3

Jesus is quoting something David wrote in **Psalms 69:4**,

More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies.

4

Whilst David was writing of himself, it was also being written prophetically of the One (Jesus the Messiah) who will one day reign from David's throne. It's called **foreshadowing** – essentially the process whereby **we enter the shadow before we enter the ultimate reality** (a shadow of things to come, if you will).

Jesus' words warn us of what to expect (v18) and tell us how to understand that hatred or challenge (v25) thrown at us by the unbelieving world.

Now to Nehemiah, specifically Sanballat, who up to this point has seemed to be a mild enemy, a nuisance but not a full-blown enemy of the work. Observe the progression of Sanballat's reaction:

5

Nehemiah 2:10 – 'it displeased them greatly'

Nehemiah 2:19 – "'What is this thing you are doing?'"

Nehemiah 4:1 – 'angry and greatly enraged'

Nehemiah 4:7 – 'very angry'

So what triggered Nehemiah's archenemy?

6 **PROGRESS.** The wall was going up and so was Sanballat's anger.

This will happen in any situation where we determine to do for God what God has called us to do. Listen to the strong warnings from Paul as he prepared to

7 leave the baby church at Ephesus in **Acts 20:28-31a**,

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert [...]

8 Be alert to this reality. And that is what Peter instructs in **1 Peter 1:13**,

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Look at the suggestions you get on your social media feeds. 'You might be interested in...'. That word 'interested' has been very carefully chosen because it feeds our appetite for a God-less autonomy – the control of self that excludes Jesus. When in reality **the world is simply discipling you away from Jesus.**

9

Now hold that thought and let's return to Nehemiah.

For Nehemiah the wall represented the security, peace, and protection of God's people. It was the visible evidence of God's concern for His redeemed people. And Sanballat, he hated it. Hated the people. Hated God.

10 In **Nehemiah 4:2** he asks,

"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?"

11 The in **Nehemiah 4:3**, Tobiah says,

"Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"

Now what should we do when the enemy comes at us?

12 Exactly what **Nehemiah** did in **verses 4-5**,

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.

He prayed! The enemy is after your children, your husband, your wife, your livelihood, your reputation, your mind, your future, your heart and soul. He wants it all! Why? Because he hates it all? Because it is all a gift from the Lord Himself.

13 **He wanted the wall broken because of his own brokenness.** He had no living God. He had no rescuer. He had no Redeemer or Saviour. When broken people get angry, what do they want? They want you to feel their brokenness.

But your Saviour and Redeemer has already shown you what you must do.

14 What did He say in **Matthew 5:44**,

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Returning anger with anger changed no one. It never showed anyone who Jesus is to you and how He treats you.

15 Nehemiah could have done many other things. But he chose prayer. **If you want to see progress you must pray.** A prayerless life is exhausting because you will have to do it all yourself.

16 Then we read something remarkable in **Nehemiah 4:6**

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

17 Stop scrolling through AI slop and take to your knees. **The people were not interested in the rebuilding – they were committed.**

It's time to stop being interested in parts of Jesus, and commit to everything He ever promised both in this life and the next. It's time to commit today!