



Sermon Preached September 1st 2019
“A Builder’s Faith”

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: The heart of a builder has faith to wait and face their fears.

I. The heart of a builder has the faith to wait. Nehemiah 2:1-2; Psalm 46:10; Nehemiah 2:7-8

II. The heart of a builder has the faith to face fear. Nehemiah 2:2-5

GETTING STARTED

1. What major point from the sermon stood out to you as particularly helpful? Why?

DIRECTOR’S CUT

“Opposition From Within”

It is almost impossible to do anything and not receive criticism. Nehemiah faced opposition and criticism as soon as he arrived in Jerusalem. Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem with all the right paperwork and fanfare from the king of Persia. Nehemiah was sent with offices and horsemen that should have signified he is not to be trifled with. However, he is immediately met with criticism and opposition by Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem. These men were officials who lived in the area but they did not want to see the Jews rebuild the walls. In one sense, they are “insiders” who are opposed to building. There are a couple things we can learn from Sanballat and Tobiah.

First, criticism and opposition usually comes from insiders. These men lived in the area and one might think they would want their lands to prosper. However, these men benefited, in some way, from the ruin of Jerusalem. Sometimes insiders do not want to see their city prosper. In fact the greatest opposition to building often comes from insiders. There are a lot of businesses, cities, churches, homes and marriages who have insiders who don’t want to see Jerusalem prosper. They work in opposition to building something that would make the situation better.

Second, sometimes there is a Sanballat in our own head that needs to be overcome. We hear our own critical voice that tells us we can’t build, it’s been tried before or it won’t make any difference. These voices act in the same way as Sanballat. The best thing we can do is identify the criticism and confront it with the word of God through prayer.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In what way(s) are Sanballat, Tobiah and Gershem insiders? In what way(s) are they outsiders? (c.f. Nehemiah 2:19-20) Can you identify some insiders and outsiders in your life that oppose what God is wanting you to build in your life?
2. How does Nehemiah deal with the criticism of Sanballat and Tobiah? (c.f. Nehemiah 2:19-20)
3. Have you ever experienced criticism in building something? How did you handle it? Could you have handled it better?
4. Has the fear of criticism ever kept you from doing what you know you should do?