**7/21/24 What Do Your Enemies Do When Their Surprise Attack is no Longer**

**a Surprise? Nehemiah 4:1–15; 6:15**

* Enemies count on the element of surprise against their opponents.
* There will always be opposition to God’s work, but we must stay focused and remember the Great Commission.
* It is very important that the church be led by people who exemplify the characteristics of Nehemiah.

**Matthew 28:19-20; Ezra 1:1,11; 7:1-9; Nehemiah 2:11**

**1. Be cautious when things seem to be going too well.**

* Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, flew into a rage and mocked the Jews when he found out that they were rebuilding the wall.
* Those that seek to live godly are warned that we will suffer persecution.
* The one thing that Sanballat is unable to see is that God is with the Jews and that He is their supply and support.

**Nehemiah 2:10,19, 4:1-3; John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:11-12; Philippians 4:19; Jeremiah 20:7**

**2. Sometimes we pray prayers for God to take direct action.**

* Nehemiah prays that God will take action against his enemies.
* Nehemiah wants God to do to his enemies what they are doing to him.
* Nehemiah’s prayer is similar to the one that the Prophet Jeremiah prayed.

**Nehemiah 4:4-5; Jeremiah 18:23**

**3. Time to refocus and take action!**

* The people do not allow the attempted distractions from those around them to stop them from achieving their mission.
* While the enemy conspires, Nehemiah prepares to face the opposition by combining faith in God with action.
* Nehemiah knows that the cure for fatigue, fear, and discouragement is to remember the Lord, who is great and mighty!
* The Jews had confidence in God’s protection and provisions and finished the wall in 52 days!

**Nehemiah 4:6-15, 6:15; Matthew 26:41; Psalms 24:7-10**