

NEHEMIAH

BUILDING A CITY
WITHIN THE CITY

Week 6
Sword and Trowel

Read Nehemiah 4:15-23 for an overview of the passage.

Context

In the beginning of chapter 4, we saw the opposition against Nehemiah and the building of the wall escalate to actual threats against their lives. The people were discouraged but reminded to place their faith in God and to remember His attributes in the face of opposition.

On Guard

Reread Nehemiah 4:15-18, considering what it must feel like to work under the threat of war at any moment, constantly reminded of the threat by the sight of swords and spears of the guards.

How do you think it felt to work under that pressure?

How can a heightened sense of danger help in the work of building the wall?

As you endeavor to do the work you are called to for the kingdom of God, from what or where are you in danger of attack? (1 Pet 5:8)

How do you arm yourself against such attacks? (See Eph. 10:18) How do live this practically?

What dangers do you face when you put down you sword to labor?

Do you really feel these dangers are real? If so, how are they tangible? If not, why do you think that is?

Rally Cry

Consider verses 19 and 20 with respect to your place in Christian community. Read Gal. 6:1-10.

Review the purpose of the trumpet against attacks on the wall.

How do you see this correlating with your belonging to a church body?

How do we practically rally to thwart attacks on the church body?

When we rally for one another where do we get our courage and strength?

What are the implications to being a member of the Church?

How does that affect your understanding of community?

Does that excite or discourage you from being a part of community?

Be Prepared

Reread Nehemiah 4:21-23 and think about your own preparedness for spiritual battle.

Why were the workers encouraged to sleep inside the walls? Why did Nehemiah not take off his clothes?

How can you live out these principles in your call to build the kingdom of God?

When have you not been prepared? What did that look like? What was the consequence?

How do we stay clothed and ready for battle?

Reflection and Prayer

Reflect on the attributes of God and the elements of the Gospel you see in this passage.

How do your thoughts and actions testify to the truth you see in these Scriptures?

Pray that this scripture would transform your life and renew your mind.