

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

Neh. 2:20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore **we his servants will arise and build:** but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

I. THE INQUIRY OF THE SITUATION, 1:1-3

II. THE INTERCESSION OF THE SERVANT, 1:4-11

III. THE INVOLVEMENTS OF THE SOVEREIGNS, 2:1-20

IV. THE INDIVIDUAL SPECIFICATIONS, 3:1-31

A. The Participants – they built and repaired.

B. The Progress – what and where was built and repaired.

V. THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES, 4:1-6:19

A. The Enemy Without, 4:1-23

1. Ridicule, 4:1-6

2. Rage, 4:7-9

3. Rubbish, 4:10-11

Three specific hindrances to the work:

- ❖ Fatigue – “...**The strength** of the bearers of burdens **is decayed...**”
- ❖ Fragments – “...and **there is much rubbish**; so that **we are not able to build the wall.**”
- ❖ Foes – “...our adversaries...”

Note the tactics of the adversaries:

- Surprise warfare (*blitzkrieg*) – “...They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them...”
- Slay the workers – “...and slay them...”
- Stop the work – “...and **cause the work to cease.**”

4. Resistance, 4:12-13

Two weeks ago, we began looking at “THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES” that are inevitable when we are involved in God’s service. This morning, we will continue looking at our text to observe “The Enemy Without.”

5. Return, 4:14-23

a. Return to the work and the war, 4:14-15

Neh. 4:14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, **Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord**, *which is great and terrible*, and **fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.**

15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and **God had brought their counsel to nought**, that **we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.**

- ❖ The work of God is greatly hindered when His children become too distracted.
- ❖ Distraction, at least the dangerous kind, is shifting our attention from something of greater importance to something of lesser importance.
- ❖ Distraction can reveal what we love. This happened to Martha.

Luke 10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

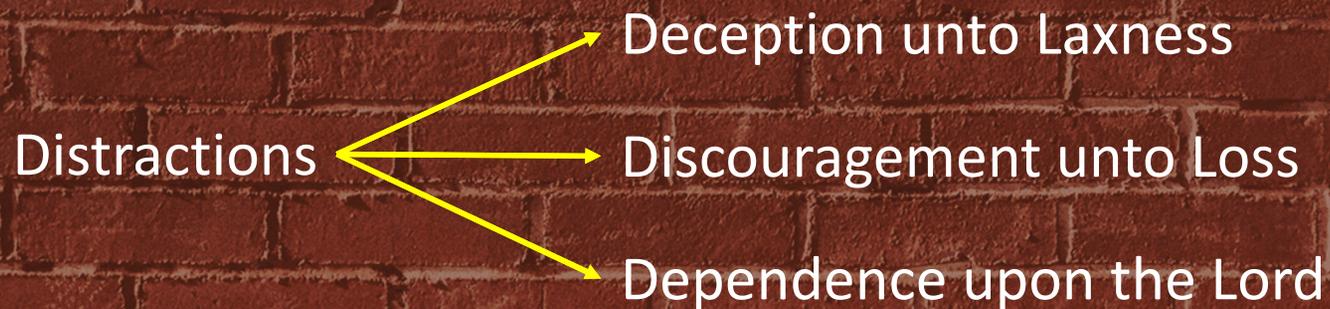
39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

- ❖ Martha was so close, but yet, so far away from the Lord – she was distracted.
- ❖ Distractions usually lead to three primary repercussions:



❖ When facing fear, fight it by refocusing on personal priorities:

- **The Courage** – “...Be not ye afraid of them...”

Josh. 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? **Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:** for **the LORD thy God is with thee** whithersoever thou goest.

Psa. 56:3 What time **I am afraid, I will trust in thee.**

Heb. 12:2 **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

○ **The Consciousness** – “...remember the Lord...”

Jude 1:16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

17 But, **beloved, remember ye the words** which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; ...

20 But ye, **beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,**

21 **Keep yourselves in the love of God**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

○ **The Confrontation** – “...fight for your brethren...”

1 Tim. 6:12 **Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have **fought a good fight**, I have **finished my course**, I have **kept the faith**:

○ **The Conviction** – “...your sons, and your daughters, your wives...”

Eph. 5:25 **Husbands, love your wives**, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ...

28 **So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies**. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Eph. 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but **bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord**.

○ **The Citadel** – “...and your houses.”

“...the house of every one is to him as his Castle and Fortress as well for defence against injury and violence, as for his repose” which over the years has become simplified to “**a man’s home is his castle**”.

The English judge and jurist Sir Edward Coke, 1604

<https://oll.libertyfund.org/quotes/502>

1 Tim. 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them **learn first to shew piety at home**, and to requite their parents: **for that is good and acceptable before God.**

Titus 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, **keepers at home**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

b. Return to watch as you work, 4:16-23

Neh. 4:16 And it came to pass from that time forth, *that* the **half of my servants wrought in the work**, and **the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons**; and the rulers *were* behind all the house of Judah.

17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, *every one* **with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon**.

18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet *was* by me.

19 And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, **The work is great and large**, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20 In what place *therefore* ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: **our God shall fight for us.**

21 **So we laboured in the work:** and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

23 So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, *saving that* every one put them off for washing.

❖ PREPARE – Be prepared to defend yourself.

❖ PRESERVE – Be preserving each other by coordinating efforts.

○ Half work while other half watches.

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Mt. 26:41 **Watch and pray**, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.**

Eph. 6:18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching** thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Col. 4:2 Continue **in prayer, and watch in the same** with thanksgiving;

1 Pet. 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be **ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.**

- Workers are armed with tools for the work and tools for the warfare.

Neh. 4:17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, *every one* **with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.**

18 For the builders, **every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded.** And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

❖ PRIORITIZE – Be prioritizing actions – focus upon the work! “...The work *is* great...”

- Everyone is to have a part – working and watching.
- Everyone is to trust in God to enable them to fight. “...our God shall fight for us.”
- Everyone stay until the work is finished. (vs. 21-23) “So we labored in the work...”

Jn. 9:4 **I must work the works of him that sent me,** while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Conclusion

1 Cor. 16:13 **Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.**

14 Let **all your things be done with charity.**

Jas. 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?**

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Gal. 5:6 “...but **faith which worketh by love.**”