

Pain, Prayer, & Progress
Nehemiah 4

I. Pain (v.1-3)

- *Sanballat _____ at the Jews. “What are these feeble Jews doing?”*
- *Tobiah said, “Yes, if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”*
- Damaging _____ supplemented with Dangerous Weapons
- Demoralize the Jews and Disrupt the _____

II. Prayer (v.4-9)

A. The _____ Prays (v.4-5) Nehemiah prays—God, please crush our enemies!

B. More Pain: the Opposition _____ and Intensifies (v.7-8)

Vicious enemies _____ on damaging the cause surrounded Jerusalem on every side!

- Sanballat and the army of Samaria came from the _____
- Tobiah and the Ammonites from the _____
- The Arabs from the _____
- The Ashdodites from the _____

They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause _____ in it.

C. The Workers _____ (v.9) *We prayed to our God and posted a guard as a protection*

D. More Pain: Internal Threats of Discouragement (v.10-12)

1. Look at the _____ of the workers

“The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing” (v.10)

2. Look at the _____ of the project!

“There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall” (v.10).

The Babylonian armies had really ruined Jerusalem’s walls in 586BC.

Pessimism is setting in and it’s a _____ problem

3. Look at the _____ of the discouragement

At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times,

“You must return to us.” Stop the work! We are receiving death threats.

Their families who lived in the countryside around Jerusalem were being _____.

The women whose husbands had left home to work on the walls were terror-stricken.

E. More Prayer and Protection

They protect the most _____ parts of the wall (v.13-14)

“Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”

Unity is _____! Be Ready to Rally Together at any Moment!

Man’s responsibility is to work and to _____ with a shovel in one hand and a sword in the other hand. We need masculine men in the church who love God, and are willing to pick up a shovel and work hard, and pick up a sword and fight hard to _____ their family.

God’s Sovereignty: *“Our God will fight _____ us.” (v.20)*

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III. Progress (v.21-23)

So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. They made _____ for the sake of the greater good.

A. The _____ for Progress is Pain!

Jesus says, *“Take up your cross and follow me.”*

Being a disciple requires _____ and sacrifice.

Masculinity is the glad assumption of sacrificial responsibility.

The great _____ that is continually told is that there can be progress without pain

This is the same lie that Satan told Jesus

The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

(Matthew 4:8–9)

There’s no need to suffer, and go to a cross and die—All you must do is worship me

We often _____ the lie and worship the god of comfort!

B. Whenever you do a good work for the Lord, you are almost sure to be _____

Jesus comes right from his Baptism and he’s immediately attacked by the devil in the wilderness

Indeed, all who _____ to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (2 Tim. 3:12)

C. Look to Jesus

He is the Ultimate Nehemiah who _____ over Jerusalem

He left his palace and went into danger to _____ with the people

He came into human history and experienced so much _____!

“Hear us O god, for we are despised” (v.4)

Isaiah 53:3 says,

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

He experienced _____ Pain—He was betrayed by close friends!

Ministry Pain—_____ by his own disciples

Familial Pain—his family thought he was _____

_____ Pain—he was flogged, beaten, pierced, bled, tortured,

He was the _____ of cruelty and jeering while he hung on the cross

Jesus went through hell on the cross

He was made perfect through suffering (Heb. 2:10)

And without Pain and Prayer, there is no _____!