

Staying Committed

¹ Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. ² He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?" ³ Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, "Even what they are building — if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!"

Nehemiah 4:1-3 (NASB)

⁷ Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.

Nehemiah 4:7-8 (NASB)

¹¹ Our enemies said, "They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work." ¹² When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, "They will come up against us from every place where you may turn,"

Nehemiah 4:11-12 (NASB)

Observation

The commitment of Nehemiah and the people was challenged in many ways. They experienced ridicule (4:1-3); resistance (4:7-8); and rumors (4:11-12). Nehemiah was able to lead the people and stay committed by responding to these challenges correctly.

- He relied on God
- He reinforced his weak points
- He found encouragement and encouraged others
- He refused to quit
- He kept the people unified

If we are going to stay committed as a church, we must all do the same thing. We need to rely on God. We must never forget that God is our source and He is leading us. We must encourage each other in our Bible study and prayer groups and fight to keep the unity. Together we can stay committed to the journey. We celebrate, connect and contribute together. If we are able to keep these 3C's a priority in our lives, we will experience something great during this Open: Next Chapter journey.

Application

Look over the things Nehemiah did to build commitment. Which one of these things do you need to strengthen your commitment? Remember that Nehemiah trusted God and persevered, without ever seeing the example of Jesus Christ on the cross. Give thanks for the example of Jesus, his sacrifice on the cross, and showing us the glory that is found beyond the sacrifice. Write below a plan to strengthen your commitment.