

## **The University of Adversity** **Nehemiah 4:1-15**

Today we are going to address the universal need to handle adversity with out being destroyed by it. You WILL face adversity in life! Will it destroy you or strengthen you? Nehemiah faced it repeatedly as he went about the task of rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem and restoring the nation, and it is recorded in Scripture for our edification. Today, will conduct class in the *University of Adversity*.

- I. Adversity entered the world through Adam and is the lot of man.**
  - A. Nehemiah faced adversity from his enemies (vs.1-3; 7-8)
  - B. Nehemiah faced adversity from this friends (v. 10-12)
- II. Adversity is Satan's tool of discouragement and defeat (John 10:10a)**
  - A. The volunteers were:
    - 1. Disheartened (v.10)
    - 2. Discouraged (v.10)
    - 3. Disillusioned (v.10)
    - 4. Demoralized (v.11)
    - 5. Despairing (*Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn they will attack you." v.12*)
  - B. Nehemiah's options:
    - 1. Retreat in fear
    - 2. Resign in failure
    - 3. Rebound in faith
- III. Adversity is God's method of making warriors**
  - A. Nehemiah responded with a show of force (v.13ff; James 4:7)
    - 1. He positioned men in strategic places
    - 2. He poised them with sound motivation
    - 3. He provided them with proper tools
  - B. He reminded them of two timeless truths
    - 1. Remember your Lord (v.14a)
    - 2. Remember your families (v.14b)
- IV. Adversity always precedes victory**
  - A. The enemy was demoralized (v.15a)
  - B. The volunteers were energized and organized (15b, ff.)

**Life Lesson:** This week a 78 year old man was struck by an automobile as he attempted to cross a busy thoroughfare in Hartford, Connecticut. The driver of the car sped away failing to stop and render aid, all of which was captured on a video-cam. Then shockingly, the camera captured more than a dozen people walk by and dozens of cars drive by without a single person stopping to help the injured man who is now paralyzed and in serious condition.

Nine people called 911 on their cell phones to report the accident. But no one walked over to the 78 year old man to render aid and comfort. What does this say about our culture? Among other things, it reveals that our culture is technologically advanced but we are in danger of losing our humanity. I wonder if the response of any of those people would have changed had a dog been run over instead of a man, and was lying in pain.

We must determine today that we will not retreat from life because it is hard, nor always resort to calling someone else to do what God has put in our hands to do. That includes facing adversity with a resolve to glorify God, discover His plan in the challenge, and commit our lives to being His tool to overcome the challenge laid before us.

Remember always: *Don't be afraid...Remember the Lord who is great and awesome...and fight! (v.14)*