

When People Have a Mind to Work?



Ground Breaking Day

Text: Nehemiah 4:1-6

June 26, 2011

ADVERSARIES



WILL BE MOST DISPLEASED

Translation...



**haters
gonna
hate**



Theme

- **The book of Nehemiah chronicles the social and political restoration of God's people, who through faith and obedience overcame what appeared to be insurmountable obstacles.**

A Brief Chronology

- 606-605 B.C. Babylon Invades Judah
- 587 Jerusalem Falls
- 589 Babylon Falls
- 538 Return Under Zerubbabel(1-6)
- 535 Temple Rebuilding Begins
- 520 Rebuilding Begins Again
- 515 The Temple Dedicated
- **476** ***Ester Becomes Queen***
- 458 Return Under Ezra (7-10)
- 444 *Return Under Nehemiah*



Nehemiah 4:1-2a

- Now it came about that when ***Sanballat*** heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. 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?”



Nehemiah 4:2b-3

- Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?” 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!”



Two Characters...

- ...Sanballat means:

“hatred in secret”

- Tobiah means

“Jehovah is good”



Sanballat...

- ...and Tobiah were the original “haters”



Haters...

- ...gonna' hate. You might as well get used to them. (4:1-3)



A “hater” is a...

- ...person that cannot be happy for another person’s success. Instead of giving acknowledgment in courtesy, a hater tries to expose a flaw in someone else. Hating is not the same as jealousy. Haters don’t want to be the person they are hating. The hater just wants to put you in your place.



“Haters” are...

- **...everywhere. They are providentially placed people who are there to teach you how to depend on God and not on yourself.**



“Haters” ...

- **...are a big part of Satan’s attempt to stop God’s work dead in its tracks. Their target is the mind. (see Eph. 6:10ff)**



Life is filled...

■ ***...with
disappointment.***



But life does not...

- *...have to be filled with discouragement.*
- *Discouragement is preventable*



Remember...

- ...that *no worthwhile endeavor* moves forward without satanically-inspired opposition



Remember...

- ...that constructive criticism may be valuable, but ridicule is a tool of the devil.



Nehemiah 4:4-5

- **Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity. Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.**



“Haters” ...

- **...are God's problem so don't respond to haters by hating. (4:4-5)**



2 Chronicles 20:15

- **“and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.'”**



Nehemiah...

...was not pleading to God for vengeance...he was pleading to God justice.



Nehemiah 4:6

- **So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its *height, for the people had a mind to work.***



“Haters” ...

- ...can't stop *your program* when your program is *God's program*. (4:6)

HATERS GONNA HATE . . .



**...SO STRUT YOUR
STUFF IN JESUS' NAME**



Remember...

- **...Find out where God is already working and join Him in what He is doing.**



A Final Note...

- **...If God is not breaking ground this afternoon on George Bush Freeway, I recommend you all stay away. If it is a move of God , you cannot afford to miss it.**