



Build the Wall – Build a Life – Build a Leader – PEOPLE WILL TRY TO HURT YOU

All men have at some time and to some degree experienced having the walls to their heart torn down by the enemy in various ways. Your heart is like a city, which you are to protect from all forms of attack. Your heart is made up of your whole person—your mind, will and emotions. When the walls of your heart are torn down, the enemy has a free access to your mind, your emotions, or your choices. He comes in to deceive you into thinking destructive thoughts about who you are. He comes in to stir up your emotions with anger, confusion, depression, bitterness and shame. He comes in to influence or control your choices. When the walls are torn down you are vulnerable to addictions and uncontrolled thoughts, which invite you to believe lies about yourself and reality. You must confront the lies, be a leader and initiate the work of rebuilding the walls of strength, definition, and leadership. The story of Nehemiah is a narrative of leadership and the rebuilding of a life – a leader in the context of the community of God.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Summary: A Man knows that he will face opposition.

Bible Verses: Nehemiah 6:15,16, Nehemiah 6:1-14.

I Peter 2:12-15, Peter 2:15,16, Hebrews 12:1-3, Ephesians 5:7-14.

Music: Beauty and the Beast – Gaston

Video: CINEMA'S TOP HUMAN VILLAINS

Resources: Nehemiah – Becoming a Disciplined Leader by Gene Getz

Nehemiah – Overcoming Challenges by Bill Hybels

The Emotionally Healthy Leader by Peter Scazzero

November 3, 2016

Nehemiah: People Will Hurt You! – Neh. 6:1-14.

- The _____ > Rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem was accomplished in 52 days. Not only did Nehemiah and the children of Israel face difficult problems, but they sacrificed, time, energy, and personal resources. And, they encountered intense opposition.
- "They _____ and _____ Us" > The children of Israel were attacked. The more they were threatened and verbally attacked, the harder they worked.
- They "_____ "> Sanballat, huddled with Tobiah and Geshem. Nehemiah discovered their plan and he led Israel to prepare for the attack.
- Go back, it's a _____! > They attempted to destroy Nehemiah's credibility.
 - Let's have a Peace Conference (6:1-4).
 - What is the motive? Nehemiah did not publicly question their motive. He simply stayed focused on his mission.
 - Evil surfaced. > Nehemiah's enemies tipped their hand.

Nehemiah: Enemies Corrupt to the Core! – Neh. 6:1-14.

- _____ (6:6,7) – pressure to meet on the plain of Ono:
 - The appearance that they had Nehemiah's welfare at heart. They wanted Nehemiah to think that their desire was to protect Nehemiah.
 - Use fear as a means to execute the corrupt plan. They wanted Nehemiah to question his loyalty to the King.
 - An element of truth to make the corrupt plan work. Could Nehemiah be the fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 – "... your king is coming to you ..."
 - Public Humiliation > An open letter that could cause the King to issue a decree and the work would be stopped.
- _____ :
 - Denied the accusations. Nehemiah did not respond defensively, but he honestly and openly stated the truth (6:8).
 - Made his response public. Nehemiah made the truth known (6:9).
 - Prayed > Nehemiah lifted his heart to God (6:9).

MODEL OF NEHEMIAH: HOW TO RESPOND TO YOUR CRITICS.

- When criticized, you must not respond by questioning the other person's _____.
- You must be patient and wait for motives to be _____.
- When criticized, move into _____. The apostle Peter give wise instructions: I Peter 2:12-15; 3:15,16).
- When criticized unjustly, you must be _____ and _____ in your response to rumors, but never _____.
- When falsely accused, you must not allow fear to cloud your perceptions and cause you to act _____ and do something _____. The model of Jesus is clearly stated in Hebrews 12:1-3.
- Trust God** to defend you.

THOUGHTS FROM A THERAPIST > DEALING WITH CRITICAL PEOPLE.

- Avoid responding to criticism with _____.
- Respond with _____ and _____.
- _____ for them.
- Avoid conversations that _____, i.e. gossip.
- Don't _____ or _____ with criticism. Do not defend or go defensive.
- Stop _____. Don't react with anger to criticism. Don't take it personally.
- Respond in a _____. Seek to validate the critic.
- Respond in a "_____ " tone.
- Communicate with _____, _____, and _____. Tell your story. Do not keep secrets (Ephesians 5:7-14).
- Limit _____. Exercise _____.

Action: Journal This!

- A Leader addresses his own brokenness. With God's help, I will begin immediately to address the following personal issue in my life _____ . What relationship is critical of you?
- I feel comfortable talking about the use of power in connection with my role and that of others.
- I have healthy boundaries in relationships.

Bible Verses

Nehemiah 6:15,16

The wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul. It had taken fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard the news and all the surrounding nations saw it, our enemies totally lost their nerve. They knew that God was behind this work.

Nehemiah 6:1-14

When Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and that there were no more breaks in it - even though I hadn't yet installed the gates Sanballat and Geshem sent this message: "Come and meet with us at Kephirim in the valley of Ono." so I sent messengers back with this: "I'm doing a great work; I can't come down. Why should the work come to a standstill just so I can come down to see you?" Four times they sent this message and four times I gave them my answer. The fifth time - same messenger, same message - Sanballat sent an unsealed letter with this message: and that you have appointed prophets to announce in Jerusalem, 'There's a king in Judah!' The king is going to be told all this - don't you think we should sit down and have a talk?" I sent him back this: "There's nothing to what you're saying. You've made it all up." They were trying to intimidate us into quitting. They thought, "They'll give up; they'll never finish it." I prayed, "Give me strength." Then I met secretly with Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, at his house. He said: Let's meet at the house of God, inside The Temple; Let's find safety behind locked doors because they're coming to kill you, Yes, coming by night to kill you. I said, "Why would a man like me run for cover? And why would a man like me use The Temple as a hideout? I won't do it." I sensed that God hadn't sent this man. The so-called prophecy he spoke to me was the work of Tobiah and Sanballat; they had hired him. He had been hired to scare me off - trick me - a layman, into desecrating The Temple and ruining my good reputation so they could accuse me. "O my God, don't let Tobiah and Sanballat get by with all the mischief they've done. And the same goes for the prophetess Noadiah and the other prophets who have been trying to undermine my confidence."

I Peter 2:12-15

Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be

there to join in the celebration when he arrives. Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society.

Peter 2:15,16

It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules

Hebrews 12:1-3

Do you see what this means - all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running - and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish in and with God - he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Ephesians 5:7-14

Don't even hang around people like that. You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! The good, the right, the true - these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours. Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it. Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ. Wake up from your sleep, Climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light!

Beauty and the Beast – Gaston

LeFou: Gosh it disturbs me to see you, Gaston
Looking so down in the dumps

Every guy here'd love to be you, Gaston
Even when taking your lumps

There's no man in town as admired as you

You're everyone's favorite guy

Everyone's awed and inspired by you

And it's not very hard to see why!

No one's slick as Gaston

No one's quick as Gaston

No one's neck's as incredibly thick as Gaston's

For there's no man in town half as manly!

Perfect, a pure paragon!

You can ask any Tom, Dick or Stanley

And they'll tell you whose team they prefer to be on!

LeFou and Chorus: No one's been like Gaston A king pin like Gaston

LeFou: No one's got a swell cleft in his chin like Gaston

Gaston: As a specimen, yes, I'm intimidating!

LeFou and Chorus: My what a guy, that Gaston!

Give five "hurrahs!" Give twelve "hip-hips!"

LeFou: Gaston is the best and the rest is all drips!

Chorus: No one fights like Gaston

Douses lights like Gaston

In a wrestling match nobody bites like Gaston!

Bimbettes: For there's no one as burly and brawny

Gaston: As you see, I've got biceps to spare

LeFou: Not a bit of him's scraggly or scrawny.

Gaston: That's right!

And every last inch of me's covered with hair!

Chorus: No one hits like Gaston

Matches wits like Gaston

LeFou: In a spitting match nobody spits like Gaston

Gaston: I'm especially good at expectorating! Ptooie!

Chorus: Ten points for Gaston!

Gaston: When I was a lad I ate four dozen eggs

Ev'ry morning to help me get large

And now that I'm grown I eat five dozen eggs

So I'm roughly the size of a barge!

Chorus: No one shoots like Gaston

Makes those beauts like Gaston

LeFou: Then goes tromping around

Wearing boots like Gaston!

Gaston: I use antlers in all of my decorating!

[Heard only in the soundtrack version]

Chorus:

Say it again!

Who's a man among men?

And then say it once more

Who's that hero next door?

Who's a super success?

Don't you know? Can't you guess?

Ask his fans and his five hangers-on

There's just one guy in town

Who's got all of it down...

LeFou: And his name's G-A-S... T... G-A-S-T-E...

G-A-S-T-O... ohh, ow...

Chorus: GASTON!!!

[Heard only in the film version]

Chorus: My what a guy!

GASTON!

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BUILD THE WALL

Build the Walls – Build a Life—Build a Leader!

All men have at some time and to some degree experienced having the walls to their heart torn down by the enemy in various ways. Your heart is like a city, which you are to protect from all forms of attack. Your heart is made up of your whole person—your mind, will and emotions. When the walls of your heart are torn down, the enemy has a free access to your mind, your emotions, or your choices. He comes in to deceive you into thinking destructive thoughts about who you are. He comes in to stir up your emotions with anger, confusion, depression, bitterness and shame. He comes in to influence or control your choices. When the walls are torn down you are vulnerable to addictions and uncontrolled thoughts, which invite you to believe lies about yourself and reality. You must confront the lies, be a leader and initiate the work of rebuilding the walls of strength, definition, and leadership. The story of Nehemiah is a narrative of leadership and the building of a life and a leader in the context of the community of God.

Rebuild the Wall – People Will Try to Hurt You

Nehemiah 6:15,16

Nehemiah: People Will Hurt You! – Neh. 6:1-14

1. The **Big Picture** > Rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem was accomplished in 52 days. Not only did Nehemiah and the children of Israel face difficult problems, but they sacrificed, time, energy, and personal resources. And, they encountered intense opposition.
2. “They **Mocked** and **Despised** Us” > The children of Israel were attacked. The more they were threatened and verbally attacked, the harder they worked.
3. They “**Conspired Together**” > Sanballat, huddled with Tobiah and Geshem. Nehemiah discovered their plan and he led Israel to prepare for the attack.
4. Go back, it’s a **Trick!** > They attempted to destroy Nehemiah’s credibility.
 1. Let’s have a Peace Conference (6:1-4).
 2. What is the motive? Nehemiah did not publicly question their motive. He simply stayed focused on his mission.
 3. Evil surfaced. > Nehemiah’s enemies tipped their hand.

Nehemiah: Enemies Corrupt to the Core! – Neh. 6:1-14

1. Corrupt Tactics (6:6,7) – pressure to meet on the plain of Ono:

1. The appearance that they had Nehemiah's welfare at heart. They wanted Nehemiah to think that their desire was to protect Nehemiah.
2. Use fear as a means to execute the corrupt plan. They wanted Nehemiah to question his loyalty to the King.
3. An element of truth to make the corrupt plan work. Could Nehemiah be the fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 – "... your king is coming to you ..."
4. Public Humiliation > An open letter that could cause the King to issue a decree and the work would be stopped.

2. Wise Response:

1. Denied the accusations. Nehemiah did not respond defensively, but he honestly and openly stated the truth (6:8).
2. Made his response public. Nehemiah made the truth known (6:9).
3. Prayed > Nehemiah lifted his heart to God (6:9).

MODEL OF NEHEMIAH: HOW TO RESPOND TO YOUR CRITICS

1. When criticized, you must not respond by questioning the other person's motives.
2. You must be patient and wait for motives to be revealed.
3. When criticized, move into growth mode. The apostle Peter give wise instructions: I Peter 2:12-15; 3:15,16).
4. When criticized unjustly, you must be bold and honest in your response to rumors, but never take revenge.
5. When falsely accused, you must not allow fear to cloud your perceptions and cause you to act impulsively and do something foolish. The model of Jesus is clearly stated in Hebrews 12:1-3.
6. Trust God to defend you.

THOUGHTS FROM A THERPAIST > DEALING WITH CRITICAL PEOPLE

1. Avoid responding to criticism with criticism.
2. Respond with compassion and forgiveness.
3. Pray for them.
4. Avoid conversations that spark criticism, i.e. gossip.
5. Don't agree or disagree with criticism. Do not defend or go defensive.
6. Stop reactive response. Don't react with anger to criticism. Don't take it personally.
7. Respond in a respectful manner. Seek to validate the critic.
8. Respond in a "matter of fact" tone.
9. Communicate with love, respect, and honesty. Tell your story. Do not keep secrets (Ephesians 5:7-14).
10. Limit communication. Exercise boundaries.

Action: Journal This!

1. A Leader addresses his own brokenness. With God's help, I will begin immediately to address the following personal issue in my life _____.
What relationship is critical of you?
2. I feel comfortable talking about the use of power in connection with my role and that of others.
3. I have healthy boundaries in relationships.