



LIFE GROUP STUDY NOTES

Wednesday 2 April 2014

TITLE: UNSTOPPABLE FAITH

TEXT: Nehemiah 4:1–6

But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. 2 And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish – stones that are burned?" 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall." 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! 5 Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders. 6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

INTRODUCTION

This week we revisit the amazing story of Nehemiah's struggle and victory as he led the process of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. We learn the secret to his "unstoppable faith". We also gain more wisdom in dealing with the enemies of faith. What a powerful "Profile of Faith" this is!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

1. Who was rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem (v1)? Why "rebuilding"?
2. How important was a city's wall in ancient times? What mission is equally (or more) important in our lives today?
3. In what THREE ways did Sanballat react to Nehemiah and company's progress in restoring the city wall (v1)? What can we learn here about the relationship between mockery and anger? Have you ever experienced similar reactions?
4. According to v2, what else did Sanballat do? Why did he address his brothers and the army? Does our "Sanballat" today also mobilise support against the Lord's mission?
5. According to v3, what did Tobiah say? What did he mean? What did he want to achieve by such mockery? Do you sometimes experience a satanic attempt to belittle the value of your work for God?
6. How did Nehemiah respond according to vv4–5? Was that a wise response? Do you always respond to challenges by prayer first?
7. Did the fury, mockery and attacks of the enemy stop Nehemiah and his crew (v6a)? Should they stop you?
8. What sort of mind did the people on Nehemiah's side have (v6b)? Is that a good example for us today?