

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

6 – 10 August 2007

NEHEMIAH: MAN OF PRAYER & ACTION! **#3 OVERCOMING OPPOSITION**

INTRODUCTION

- There are many responses to opposition. What are some *good* examples you've seen? *Bad*?

TRAINING OBJECTIVE To discuss Nehemiah's strategy for overcoming opposition to rebuilding the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Nehemiah 3:28-32

- Why did Nehemiah have people rebuild a section of the wall in front of their own house?
- What can we learn from this leadership technique?

Read Nehemiah 4:1-6

Note: Sanballat was the governor of Samaria, a territory to the North of Jerusalem; Tobiah was a Jewish official in Ammon, a territory to the East of Jerusalem.

- Why were "the neighbors" upset with Jerusalem's wall building?
- How do Sanballat and Tobiah try to discourage the work?
- How does Nehemiah respond to this opposition?
- Who is Nehemiah saying is ultimately responsible for justice? (Deut 32:35)
- What effect does Nehemiah have on the people?

Read Nehemiah 4:7-23

- Why did the opposition intensify?
- What was Nehemiah's response? What does this say about Nehemiah?
- What does he want them to remember? (v.14) Why is that important?
- If God was watching over them, why did they feel that they had to defend themselves?
- What was Nehemiah's "alert plan?" How did he involve God? (v. 20)
- How did Nehemiah demonstrate servant leadership? (v. 23)
- Why is servant leadership such an effective leadership style?

APPLICATION

- What vision has God given you? How do you need to trust God with that vision?
- What opposition is keeping you from completing what God has called you to do? Ask God to give you the strength to overcome the obstacle and develop a plan.

Give us grace, O God, to do the deed which we well know cries out to be done. Let us not hesitate because of ease, or the words of men's mouths, or our own lives. Mighty causes are calling us... but they call with voices that mean work and sacrifice and death. Mercifully grant us, O God, the spirit of Esther, that we say, "I will go unto the King, and if I perish, I perish." Amen

W.E.B. Dubois, A Founder of the NAACP