QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. Describe a time when you were ridiculed by others.

 How did it make you feel? How did you respond to the situation?

 Looking back on it, would you have done anything differently?

2. What’s the difference between constructive criticism and ridicule?

3. Read the following passages and note what the Scripture says about

 our words toward others:

 a) Proverbs 10:11

 b) Proverbs 12:18

c) Proverbs 15:1

d) Proverbs 18:21

 e) Matthew 5:9

 f) Ephesians 4:29

 g) James 1:26

4. How did the second prayer of Nehemiah differ from the first?

5. What practical application are you going to make from this week’s

 message? (*Share your decision with another person*.)

* I am going to encourage another person in their spiritual walk.
* I am going to write down every time I make a critical comment to another person and focus on being more encouraging.
* I am going to memorize Ephesians 4:29.

Cornerstone Church December 26, 2021

Nehemiah 4:1-9 Study Series #07

***Nehemiah’s Enemies Attack***

***Through Ridicule***

**I. Introduction**

 A. The Story of John Sedgwick

 B. Ridicule

 (See I Samuel 17:41-47; Matthew 9:24; Luke 22:63-65;

 Luke 23:35-37; Hebrews 11:36; Nehemiah 2:19)

**II. Nehemiah’s Enemies Attack Through Ridicule**

 A. Sanballat Hears About the Wall

 (See Nehemiah 4:1; Nehemiah 2:10; Nehemiah 2:19;

 Philippians 2:4-7; Psalm 2:1-12; Zechariah 2:8)

 B. Sanballat Ridicules the Jews

 (See Nehemiah 4:2; I Corinthians 1:18-31;

 II Corinthians 12:1-10)

 C. Tobiah Ridicules the Jews

 (See Nehemiah 4:3; Nehemiah 6:1-2)

 D. Nehemiah Responds with Prayer

 (See Nehemiah 4:4-5; Matthew 5:44; I Samuel 17:26;

 Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46; Psalm 69:9;

 John 2:14-17)

 E. The Wall is Joined Together

 (See Nehemiah 4:6; I Peter 3:16)

 F. Sanballat Threatens to Attack

 (See Nehemiah 4:7-8; Psalm 2:1-2; Acts 4:23-30; Luke 23:12)

 G. Nehemiah Gathers the People for Prayer

 (See Nehemiah 4:9; Nehemiah 4:17; Mark 13:33; Mark 14:38;

 Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2-4; Ephesians 6:10-18;

 II Corinthians 10:1-6)

**III. Conclusion**

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please contact the church office and the pastor will contact you.

**Passage of Study**

Nehemiah 4:1-9

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

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

**3**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!”

**4**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. **5**Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

**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.

**7**Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, *and* that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. **8**All of them conspired together to come *and* fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.

**9**But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.

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