

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP – NEH. 4:6-12.

Series: *HOW GOD TURNS SETBACKS INTO COMEBACKS*

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. ⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. ¹⁰ In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." ¹¹ And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." ¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." *Nehemiah 4:6-12 (ESV)*

➤ FOUR SETBACKS THAT CAN CAUSE DISCOURAGEMENT

1. WHEN SOMETHING TAKES _____ THAN EXPECTED, THIS CAUSES _____.

¹⁰ Then the people of Judah said, "The work crews are worn out, and there is too much rubble. We can't continue to rebuild the wall." *Nehemiah 4:10 (GW)*

¹⁷ Remember what the Amalekites did to you on your trip from Egypt. ¹⁸ They attacked you when you were tired and exhausted and killed all those who were lagging behind. They weren't afraid of God. *Deuteronomy 25:17-18 (GW)*

2. WHEN SOMETHING IS MORE _____ THAN EXPECTED, THIS CAUSES _____.

¹⁰ The people of Judah had a song they sang: "We grow weak carrying burdens; There's so much rubble to take away. How can we build the wall today?" *Nehemiah 4:10 (TEV)*

¹⁶ Come, Lord, and show me your mercy, for I am helpless, overwhelmed, in deep distress; *Psalms 25:16 (TLB)*

3. WHEN I START TO DOUBT MY OWN _____, THIS CAUSES A SENSE OF _____.

¹⁰ In Judah, it was said: The strength of the laborer fails, since there is so much rubble. We will never be able to rebuild the wall. *Nehemiah 4:10 (CSBBible)*

4. WHEN THE OPPOSITION GROWS _____, THIS CAUSES _____.

¹¹ Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work." *Nehemiah 4:11 (NIV)*

¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us." *Nehemiah 4:12 (NIV)*

➤ WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I FEEL LIKE GIVING UP? *(Do the Three Things Nehemiah Did)*

1. _____ WHATEVER IS NOT WORKING

¹³ So I placed armed guards from each family in the cleared spaces behind the walls. *Nehemiah 4:13 (TLB)*

²⁵ We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming. *Hebrews 10:25 (GW)*

2. REFOCUS ON _____

¹⁴ Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!" *Nehemiah 4:14 (NLT2)*

⁷ As my life was slipping away, I remembered the LORD. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple. *Jonah 2:7 (NLT2)*

²⁵ I am completely discouraged—I lie in the dust. Revive me by your Word. *Psalms 119:25 (TLB)*

3. _____ THE DISCOURAGEMENT

¹⁴ Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the leaders and the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid! Remember the Lord who is great and glorious; fight for your friends, your families, and your homes!" ¹⁵ Our enemies learned that we knew of their plot, and that God had exposed and frustrated their plan. Now we all returned to our work on the wall; *Nehemiah 4:14-15 (TLB)*