

Dealing with The Critics

Brick by Brick

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Pastor Mike Rippy

... "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble--burned as they are?" ... "What they are building--if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!" Nehemiah 4:2&3 (NIV)

How do we respond...

✓ When we are facing ridicule...

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, Nehemiah 4:1

... We will pray...

... And persist.

✓ When we are facing threats...

They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. Nehemiah 4:8-9

... We will keep on praying...

... And protect the vision God has given.

✓ When we are facing despair ...

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." Nehemiah 4:10 (NIV)

Clues You Are in Despair

- Stamina is failing
- Vision is blurring
- Things are still a mess
- Hope is dwindling

...We will remember.

... We may need to revise our plan. vv. 14b-23

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena... who strives valiantly... who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

Teddy Roosevelt