

Ministry & The Work of God: 7

Handling Problems and Dealing with Difficult Situations – Part 1

Nehemiah 4-6

MOCKINGS - Nehemiah 4. 1-6

- his enemies come to mock and ridicule him and the work.
- Sanballat's attack on Nehemiah (and his team) was fuelled by resentment.
- probably one of those who sought to get the original building work on the Temple stopped (Ezra 4.1-4)
- He hurled lots of verbal abuse, insults and laughed at God's people
- Tobiah joins in the mockings (v3), even making a joke about the work

Nehemiah's response was **PRAY** – he handed the situation over to God

- Their aim was to lower the esteem of God's people so that they quit (vs4-5)
- To despise literally means to 'value as worthless or insignificant'.

In opposing Nehemiah, they were actually opposing God - see also Matthew 25.40; John 15.18-21; Acts 5.38-39; Acts 9.3-5

(vs 6) Nehemiah did not slacken or let up, even in the midst of adversity.

- The work was bigger than the problem.
- God had given them the vision
- the “people had a mind to work” ie. their heart was fully in it.

Lessons:

1. Know the vision and your calling
2. Work of God is not insignificant or worthless - God rates it very highly (see Matthew 10.42)
3. God takes the ridicule and persecution very personally
4. Give yourself fully to the work.