

# *Facing Opposition*

*A Study on the Book of Nehemiah*

**Nehemiah 4:1-23**

## WHEN FACING OPPOSITION

*7 Things to keep in mind...*

1. Expect opposition (vs. 1-3)
2. Check for seeds of truth (v.3)
3. Pray boldly and honestly (vs. 4-5)
4. Focus on the task – Not your opponent (v.6)
5. The criticism may intensify before it dies down (vs.7-9)
6. The greatest threat is discouragement (vs.10-12)
7. Protect yourself – but don't retaliate (vs.13-23)

*Facing Opposition\_Part 5... Message by Pastor Jesse E. - (4/29/12).  
Sermon Series: Live for More  
Special thanks to NorthCoastChurch for part of today's outline*

# REALife Application

**QUICK REVIEW** - Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

1. There are a variety of ways we respond when opposition hits. What's been your most common initial reaction when you've faced opposition in the past (withdraw, attack, back down, move toward resolution, chalk it up as a test of your will, blame yourself, etc.)?
2. Being attacked by those in your "own camp" can be unsettling to say the least. Moses encountered such a dilemma early in his leadership as he took the Jews out of Egypt and into the Promise Land. What insights can you gain from Numbers 12:1-16 as to the way he responded?
3. It's no small task to boldly ask for God's justice while steadfastly refusing to take revenge into your own hands. Psalm 139 gives us a window into what it looks like to strike this balance. Have you ever prayed a prayer similar found in verses 19-22? Can you think of an example of when this kind of prayer would be appropriate or even needed? What point would this prayer be over the top and inappropriate? How do David's words in verses 23-24 help maintain this balance?
4. Here are some more verses that speak to the same issues as above. What other insights do they give you for dealing with opposition?  

Matt 5:43-48                      Matt 10:16                      Col 4:5-6
5. Is there any area of significant opposition you are facing that you need to depend more on God's intervention and less on your own? Is there an area that you need to be more careful about "posting a guard" or setting up a better line of protection?
6. Nehemiah made sure his opponents couldn't take advantage of the internal problems his people were facing. He took care of the home front by dealing quickly with the problems and concerns his people were facing. Are there any home front problems or issues that you need to deal with?

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