

Message: ***"How to Handle Criticism"***

Scripture: Nehemiah 4:1-9
(10-05-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

Nehemiah finally gets to Jerusalem from Persia, and got the people involved in rebuilding the walls. Then all of a sudden, they face a lot of criticism. Criticism tears a person apart, it discourages, and demoralizes. How does one deal with criticism?

When you're criticized, remember we all do. No matter what you do, no matter how well you do it, there will always be someone who will find the negative in the positive and choose the route of criticism. You need to be prepared for that.

When you're criticized, take time to pray. Through prayer we consider the source and reason of criticisms. Through prayer, we gain wisdom from God, as well as guidance on how to respond.

When you're criticized, make changes where necessary. Nehemiah did not give up on the mission. He even improved on it. Remember, "A successful man is one who lay a firm foundation with the bricks that have been thrown at him." (David Brinckley).

How do you handle criticisms?

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. 'Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.' – how did that childhood taunt affect you?
2. Why do you think Sanballat was so opposed to Nehemiah's efforts? What weapons does he use against Nehemiah and his team? To whom does Nehemiah turn in face of opposition? What does he say that surprises you?
3. When have you ever attempted something so big it was beyond human control but within God's provision? What gives you more difficulty: external criticism or internal fears? Why?