

Message: ***"How to Handle Discouragement"***

Scripture: Nehemiah 4:10-23
(10-12-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

When you get discouraged, what do you do?

Nehemiah encouraged God's people to keep their eyes on God and His purposes. He also helped them prioritize - to be strategic in allocating their resources. They strengthened the defenses where most needed. He also organized the workers by families. He got them building the walls near their homes. And they worked in teams, some laboring, some defending. There was ownership, collaboration, partnership. As a result, they were encouraged to complete the task.

When you get discouraged, what should you do? Pray intelligently, think strategically, avoid critics and find like-minded people to share the load. We too need a hand to lift us up when we're down. That is why we serve in teams. It's more fun to work together.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What teasing and name-calling got to you when you were young? How did you deal with ridicule from your enemies?
2. How did Nehemiah encourage his people to persist in the midst of strife?
3. How did Nehemiah show his 'nitty-gritty' level of involvement in the building project? How did it show dependence on God? On human resources?
4. What is one area of your life where there seems to be "so much rubble"? In what ways are you trusting God, and cooperating with others to build something out of that rubble?