

7. Verse 6 tells us the wall reached the halfway point “*because the people worked with enthusiasm*” — even while being mocked. What’s one piece of progress in your own life right now that’s worth pausing to thank God for, even though the work isn’t finished?

(Remember this is about something in your life God wants to rebuild) The message named two beliefs that have to be in place before anyone will build: believing the wall CAN be rebuilt and believing you have the RIGHT to be the one rebuilding it. Which of those is harder for you to believe right now, and why?

Scripture: Romans 12:17–21 (NLT)

8. Paul writes, “*Never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God*” (v. 19). How does Nehemiah’s prayer in the passage above put this verse into action, and what would it look like for you to do the same with someone who’s opposing or discouraging you right now?
9. Paul ends with, “*Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good*” (v. 21). As you think about the wall God is inviting you to rebuild this season, what would it look like to let this verse shape how you respond to whatever — or whoever — stands in the way?



CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Ask God to show you where the “half-built” places are in your life right now — progress you’ve already made that’s easy to overlook because the work isn’t finished. Sit quietly and thank Him specifically for it.
- 2) Ask God: Where am I tempted to argue back or settle the score myself instead of bringing this to You? Sit with whatever comes to mind, even if it’s uncomfortable.
- 3) Ask God to help you believe two things this week: that this area of your life can be rebuilt, and that you have permission to be the one He rebuilds it with. Write down anything that stirs in you as you pray.

Reimagine

The Blessing of God is Within Your Reach

Pastor Craig Sweeney | September 20, 2026

Blessing—When we experience the hand of God.

Thread: Reimagine, or the blessing may not come.

“Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, ‘What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?’ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, ‘That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!’ Then I prayed, ‘Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders.’ At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.”

Nehemiah 4:1-6 NLT

They are halfway to finishing the repairs on their wall!

What did Nehemiah do in response to opposition?

- Nehemiah sat with God again.

- Gathering perspective.
- Gathering faith.
- Gathering confidence.
- Gathering clarity for his next step.

What’s your next step? Calming the mind.

- **Confession** to a trusted someone.
- **Admission** of a wrong belief about God or yourself.
- **Letting go** of something painful leaving you defeated and unmotivated.

- What NOW?

- Lay down the necessary habits that BUILD a strong LIFE.

- **Nehemiah points out the problem to God and asked Him to move on their behalf (*blessing*).**
 - He is appealing to God for justice.
- **Simultaneously, Nehemiah showed the people how to Trust God, even with the unresolved.**
 - Justice.
- **They kept building the wall on their doorsteps.**

What do I do with opposition?

Challenge:

- Will I sit with God? To see, hear and believe what He does?
- Will I call for the inspection at my doorstep?
- Will I reach for the obedience that brings about the hand of God?
- Who will I invite to encourage me for the work on my part of the wall?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit Dougbramptonbooks.com/resource.

Homework
Reimagine.
Fall 2026 | Week 2
Message Date 9/20/2026

MY STORY

1. If you were building a real wall around your house tomorrow, what's one completely unnecessary feature you'd insist on — a moat, a drawbridge, a secret door?
2. What's a home or DIY project you started with total confidence that's still sitting half-finished right now?

QUICK REVIEW

3. What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME **Scripture: Nehemiah 4:1–6 (NLT)**



4. Sanballat and Tobiah didn't just criticize Nehemiah's plan — they mocked whether the work would even hold up ("*a fox would collapse it*") and whether the workers were capable at all ("*this bunch of poor, feeble Jews*"). What's the version of that mockery you hear — from others or in your own head — when you try to rebuild something in your life?
5. The older I get the more deeply I understand that many times so much of the opposition I experience is my own personal self-talk. It may have started once as something someone had said to me, but it has taken root in my life. So many times, I have conversations with people who are so hard on themselves and speak so poorly to themselves that they would never say it to me or anyone else. Is there a thought in your life that you speak to yourself that is actually greater opposition than anything outside of your life? If so, what is it?
6. Instead of arguing back, Nehemiah "*prayed*" (v. 4) and kept building. Why might taking our frustration to God first, rather than to our critics, actually be the stronger move?