A Study of Nehemiah  
Part 4 - Nehemiah 4:1-10

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1. The devil will try to devour us with ridicule.

   Nehemiah 4:1-3 (ESV) ¹ Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”

   Matthew 5:11 (ESV) “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

The devil tries to devour us with ridicule for at least 2 purposes:

a. To sabotage our service

   1 Corinthians 1:27 (ESV) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

   1 John 4:4 (ESV) Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

b. To destroy our dreams

   Philippians 4:13 (ESV) I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

2. We should respond with prayer.

   Nehemiah 4:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

   Proverbs 15:1 (ESV) A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

   Proverbs 29:11 (ESV) A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.
3. We should continue to serve/work for the Lord.

**Nehemiah 4:6-9 (ESV)** 6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. 7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. 9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

**Ephesians 6:13 (ESV)** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and have done all, to stand firm.