

## **Nehemiah Rebuilds Jerusalem's Wall** (*Nehemiah 1-6 & 12: 27-43*)

*[Cast: Narrator, Nehemiah, King and opponents of the wall building – either all played by one person, or different people coming and going – while Narrator is reading introduction, Nehemiah mimes approaching King to pour wine, look sad, King nods approval]*

Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. It didn't look like a useful, protective, grand wall; it looked like a messy trail of rubble. At that time Nehemiah was working for the King in Persia. The first thing he had to do was ask for the king's permission to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall. It could have made the king mad – why should the king let his wine steward go and rebuild a conquered enemy's wall? But Nehemiah prayed about it first, and the king agreed to let Nehemiah go. Not only that, the king also agreed Nehemiah's request for wood from the king's forest and gave him an armed escort for the journey! It was a good start to Nehemiah's plan to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. It was a good start, but then things started to get tricky. Nehemiah said:

**I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

And some officials from the neighbouring towns said:

*(laugh) Rebuild the wall! It's never going to happen! It's equivalent to rebelling against the king!*

But Nehemiah replied: **I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

And Nehemiah and all the other Jews started the work. All except the noble men of Tekoa, who said:

*We're not going to get our hands dirty!*

But Nehemiah replied: **I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

Then those pesky officials returned and mocked Nehemiah and the Jews working on the wall:

*That is the most rubbish wall I've ever seen! Nobody sneeze, it might fall down!*

But Nehemiah replied: **I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

Which really wound them up, so they plotted together to come and attack Jerusalem and cause chaos. But Nehemiah heard about their plans and put men on guard duty; everybody carried a weapon in case of attack, and the officials knew they had lost the element of surprise and backed down. Nehemiah said:

**I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

The wall-builders said: *We are tired out! And there's still rubble everywhere and loads of wall to build!*

But Nehemiah replied: **I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

Then the Nehemiah's people said: *We're hungry! We're broke! We're in debt!*

So Nehemiah had to sort out their social and economic problems, but he said to himself:

**I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

Then the troublesome officials tried to trick Nehemiah in to going to visit them, to get him away from his rebuilding work, and have the opportunity to harm him. They sent him four messages saying:

*Come and meet us in one of the villages! We need to talk! We can iron out some of our differences! Come on!*

But Nehemiah replied: **I'm busy! I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

So they sent a fifth note saying: *You are in so much trouble now! We know you are planning to revolt against the king! Wait until he hears about this!*

But Nehemiah replied: **Stop making up lies! I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

And he prayed to God for the strength and courage to carry on. Then a so-called friend told Nehemiah that God had said to tell him:

*Those officials are going to kill you! Quick! Let's hide!*

But Nehemiah replied: **That's not what God says to do! I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

And he was right! God hadn't told his friend to say that at all; the nasty officials had! And some other so-called prophets also tried to frighten Nehemiah into stopping the work, saying:

*Doom and gloom! It's all going to end badly, very badly, for you if you don't stop building the wall!*

But Nehemiah replied: **I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

And on top of all that, Nehemiah kept receiving letters from Tobiah saying:

*You're rebuilding project is a stupid plan! It doesn't have my approval and I'm a very important person round here! Woe to you if you don't stop such foolishness!*

But Nehemiah replied: **I'm going to get the wall rebuilt!**

And after 52 days of hard work the entire wall was finished! Nehemiah said:

**I got the wall rebuilt! I got the wall rebuilt! I got the wall rebuilt! Praise the Lord!**

A big celebration party was planned to dedicate the wall and give thanks to God that, against all the odds, the wall got rebuilt! All the people joined in and the joyful noise of songs of thanksgiving could be heard far and wide!