

HAND ME ANOTHER BRICK – Part X
“Critics and Criticism Matters Continued”
Reference: **Nehemiah 4:4-9**
Pastor Larry Webb

This message is the second part of a two-part lesson on Nehemiah and the subject of critics and criticism. Sanballat and Tobiah were angered that Nehemiah and his construction crew intended to rebuild the Jerusalem wall.

Notice that Nehemiah had a strategic two-part reaction to his critics and criticism:

ONE... Nehemiah _____.
verses four and five (see screen)

Nehemiah's prayer was most unusual because that prayer seems to be diametrically opposed to the instructions on prayer found in the New Testament. If, someone offends us and sins against us now during this age then we are instructed to pray for this person and beg God to forgive him. Let me cite two biblical examples of that:

- _____ prayed for those that opposed Him.
Reference: **Luke 23:34** (see screen)
- _____ prayed for those that opposed him.
Reference: **Acts 7:60** (see screen)

Nehemiah practiced imprecatory praying toward his critics.
Definition: To imprecate means to invoke a _____ or evil on someone's enemies; so, **imprecatory praying** means praying that God would invoke a _____, misfortune or damnation onto someone(s).
There are isolated situations where imprecatory praying is still acceptable, but Nehemiah's situation is not now the norm.

In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commented on our personal reaction to critics that have a negative and destructive motivation for their hurtful comments.
Reference: **Matthew 5:43-44** (see screen)

Principle: If we are criticized, don't _____ on people; instead, _____ with God.
Reference: **Proverbs 26:4** (see screen)

TWO... Nehemiah _____.
verses six through nine (see screen)
Reference: **Galatians 6:9** (see screen)

Five practical things to remember to help us become more persistent:

- There aren't many _____.
- There aren't many _____.
- There aren't many _____.
- There aren't many _____.
Reference: **II Timothy 4:16** (see screen)
- There aren't many _____.