

SERMON

DATE: Sunday, February 16-17, 2019

SERIES TITLE: STEADFAST: *Joining God in the Work of Building His Kingdom*

SERMON TITLE: Effective Leaders

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 4:1-9

[1] When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews,

[2] and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

[3] Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

[4] Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity.

[5] Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

[6] So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

[7] But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry.

[8] They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

[9] But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

February 16-17, 2019
Title: Effective Leaders

1. Effective Leaders live beyond the hard times and opposition.

- They do not receive ridicule and are not demoralized.
- Opposition is a given; defeat is not.

2. Effective Leaders point to what can be.

3. Effective Leaders solve problems and find solutions.

4. Effective Leaders are all in.

- They observe, prod, encourage, lead, and join in the work.

5. Effective Leaders give hope and depend on God.

Lagniappe

What an amazing time the last year has been. It's hard to imagine but we are within one month of being in our new Worship Center for a full year. We have much to celebrate and much to be thankful for.

For example, our worship attendance and Bible Study attendance are up significantly. Specifically, our Connect Groups are averaging 220 more people the first five weeks of this year than last year. Our budget giving is up 22% over our giving last January and our worship attendance is up 16 percent.

There is one area still outstanding.

Our Forward! Capital Giving Campaign is still not complete. Two years ago, we pledged to give \$4,503,934.00 to complete the building. To date with 10 months remaining we have given \$2,804,859.46.

Finishing Forward! strong will put us where we need to be with our building. We still have time to do this. If we all do our part we can hit 100 percent of our goal for the Forward! Campaign.

Would you look at your pledge and commit to finish strong this year? I have every expectation that we will do so.

Thank you for your faithfulness to finish this amazing project.