**SCC SMALL GROUPS**

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**August 1, 2021**

**Swooped Down On?**

**Nehemiah 4:1-23**

**Getting Started:**

1. When you were a child growing up what "teasing and name-calling" got to you?

 2. As a child what was your way to "keep going" when things got tough?

**Searching the Scriptures:**

1. Why do you think Sanballat was so opposed to Nehemiah's efforts?

 \* What weapons does he use against Nehemiah and his team?

 \* How effective were their taunts in slowing down the building?

 2. To whom does Nehemiah turn in the face of opposition (v.4)?

 \* What does he say that surprises you?

 \* What effect does his prayer have on his own people?

 3. What is the next threat brought against Nehemiah's team (vs. 7-8)?

 \* How do the Jews meet this threat?

 4. The next threat is primarily internal from within their own ranks––what is it?

 \* How does Nehemiah encourage his people to persist?

 \* What does Nehemiah encourage his people to remember (v.14)?

 5. What happens when the Jews return to work?

 \* How does Nehemiah show his "nitty-gritty" level of involvement in this building

 effort?

 \* How does he show his dependence upon God?

 \* Upon strategic use of human resources?

 \* Upon his own diligence?

**Application of the Scriptures:**

1. In Pastor Scott's message he mentioned four life dynamics that "make us feel

 swooped down on" fatigue, frustration, fatalism, and fear. Which of these, when life

 gets hard, affects you the most?

2. Share a time when God called you to do something "bigger than you are?" What

 happened? What did you learn about yourself? Others? God?

 3. What gives you more difficulty: External criticism or internal fears?

 4. Do you prefer to line up tasks and do them one at time or do you like juggling more

 than one thing at time?

 5. Which do you tend to do "with all your heart”: Work? Worry? Worship? Warfare?