



Sermon Notes: Dealing with Discouragement

1. Weapons that cause discouragement.

- a. Pretense.
- b. Psychological warfare.
- c. The perversion of justice.
- d. False accusations.
- e. Overt opposition.
- f. The passage of time.

2. Weapons that fight discouragement.

- a. Perspective:
- b. Power:
- c. Promise:
- d. Purpose:



Gospel Applications: Dealing with Discouragement

Discuss.

1. If you had been present when the Samaritans offered to help the Jews rebuild the temple, how would you have responded? Why did the Jews reject their offer?
2. The Samaritans told the Jews, "We seek your God as you do" (Ezra 4:2). In what ways was this partially true? In what ways was it false? Why does it matter?
3. What are some ways enemies of God and true Christianity claim to help the church in its mission today? Who are these enemies? Why do you think they're offering to help advance the kingdom of God?
4. Which of the six "weapons" of discouragement was most effective against the Jews? Which do you think is most effective against the church today? Which is most effective against you?
5. Which of the six "weapons" have you seen used against our church and its leaders? Who/what was the source of these attacks? Who was the root source of these attacks? How does this change the way you view the discouragement faced by your own church and its leaders?
6. How do you typically handle discouragement? ["When I lose heart, I tend to . . ."]
7. Which of the four "weapons" to fight discouragement is most natural for you? Which is least natural? How do you see all four of these helping you overcome an area of discouragement in your life?
8. What has you discouraged right now? What's your next right step to take in faith?

Pray.

1. Acknowledge where you are discouraged right now – and confess how that discouragement has led you into areas of disobedience (e.g. fear, anger, doubt, blame, etc.). Ask the Lord to forgive you for any reaction that isn't pleasing to him.
2. Praise the Lord for giving you weapons to fight discouragement – including the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). Thank the Lord that your ultimate victory is found in Christ's victory for you.