

Bad Trees & Bullies



Bullies By The Wall

- Nehemiah became the target of bullying when he came to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls. At first, he was only questioned by powerful officials (Nehemiah 2:19). However, it quickly became clear that men like Sanballat and Tobiah had no real desire to see Jerusalem's fortunes restored.
- Nehemiah 4:1ff – Bullies often need the strength of their followers to empower them. Furthermore, their own words betray the weakness and ignorance of their arguments – bullies only see things from a superficial perspective.



“Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man out of his good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth what is evil. And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned” (Matthew 12:33-37).

“Never take
your own
revenge,
beloved...”
Romans 12:17ff



It's Not Your Fault

- It's not your fault how your body is shaped, or if you do not prefer this or that popular activity. It is not a crime to be very intelligent or to struggle in some areas academically. Being shy, soft-spoken, and gentle are not character flaws.
- Words do hurt (Jeremiah 18:18, James 3:8), but you are not validated by anybody else's opinion of you (1 Corinthians 4:3, Psalm 139:14).
- Remember, when you're faced with bullying, nobody understands your pain better than Jesus!