



Diversion and Deception

Now, it gets Personal!

Attack 1: Distraction

Nehemiah is led to believe that his enemies all want to make nice and bury the hatchet. They are offering a peace summit. What should Nehemiah do?

Nehemiah Stayed on Task

Nehemiah responds to calls for reconciliation:

- Stay focused on the _____ thing
Don't let the good rob the _____
- Saying "no" isn't a bad thing for any Christian to learn.
- Keep an eye out for purposeful distractions

Attack 2: Intimidation

Nehemiah is accused of treason – a capital crime. How should Nehemiah choose to handle these allegations?

Nehemiah didn't Flinch

Nehemiah didn't panic when the accusations started flying:

- He responded strongly to accusations
- Nehemiah prayed for _____ to finish the task.
- Nehemiah refused to be _____ to the point of losing focus on the goals.

Attack 3: Integrity

Nehemiah is summoned to hear a prophesy from one of his priests in Jerusalem. Nehemiah is told that people are coming to kill him and that the prophesy says that he should hide in the House of God inside the Temple for protection. What should Nehemiah do?

Nehemiah Knew his Bible

When faced with prophesy, Nehemiah carefully considers the words:

- Checks the prophesy against _____ and finds it in opposition.
- Nehemiah chooses _____ as the highest authority.

Finished in 52 Days

In the face of overwhelming success, Nehemiah is still hearing dissonance from those in Jerusalem. Come to find out, some inside Jerusalem are loyal to the opposition. How should Nehemiah handle these outside influences?

Next Week:
Multitudes and Money

Make God Happy

In the face of abounding success, Nehemiah faces criticism:

- You must make _____ happy first.
- Pray and _____ again.
- You can't make everyone happy—_____.

Know Your Mission!

We Exist:

- For people who don't know _____
- To mentor people _____ in their faith
- And to serve as a ministry platform for those that _____ the first two.

Three Fold Focus

- Real men need a _____ church
- Young couples need a church family to come back to Jesus
- _____ are our most precious gift.

Keep the Focus!

Nehemiah 6 (NIV)

¹ When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates—² Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono."

But they were scheming to harm me; ³ so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" ⁴ Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

⁵ Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter ⁶ in which was written:

"It is reported among the nations—and Geshem says it is true—that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king ⁷ and have even appointed

prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: 'There is a king in Judah!' Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us confer together."

⁸ I sent him this reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head."

⁹ They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed."

But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands."

¹⁰ One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night they are coming to kill you."

¹¹ But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should one like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" ¹² I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³ He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.

¹⁴ Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who have been trying to intimidate me.

The Completion of the Wall

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.