



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

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Sermon Series: *Return and Rebuild*
Avoiding Distractions
Nehemiah 6:1-16

“Lessons from Nehemiah’s Resolve”

1. When God sets you on a mission, see it through.
Read Nehemiah 6:1-9

As chapter 6 begins, Nehemiah encounters familiar opposition to his efforts to rebuild the wall, but the progress of the wall was nearing completion. Even in the face of intense opposition and intimidation, he was not deterred from completing the mission that God had given to him.

- a. Given what we know about Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem from earlier in the book, why are they so determined to stop Nehemiah? In the context of the church, what are some forces of opposition to God’s mission exist currently and how do you see the church as standing firm in the mission of God today?
- b. Nehemiah used discernment in order to see the plot forming against him. How does discernment work and what is its role in the life of believers?
- c. What are some great works of God that you feel He has called you to in the past, present, or even in the near future? What actions will you put in place to see that through and not be deterred?

2. We have an enemy, trying to end our mission.
Read Nehemiah 6:1,2

The reality of spiritual opposition is something we must not only acknowledge but trace back to the roots. The root of all spiritual opposition in our lives is Satan. We see in chapter 6 how Satan used three men to try and stop the rebuilding of the wall. Nehemiah’s resolve in acknowledging the enemy and dealing with them effectively should inspire us in our faith.

- a. The meaning of the name “Satan” is literally “adversary”. What are other biblical names given to Satan and how do these names give context for who this spiritual entity actually is?
- b. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem were real people seeking to destroy Nehemiah’s mission. We know that the root of their efforts was Satan in seeking to destroy the people of God. What are some real life examples of how you have seen people or circumstances intentionally come against you or the church?
- c. Read Matthew 4:1-11. Satan attempts to derail Jesus’ ministry before it even begins. What can we learn from the example of Christ in dealing with direct opposition from our enemy?

3. Learn the enemy’s tactics and study them.
Read selected verses from Nehemiah 6

The spiritual opposition was fierce in its attack but also specific to the setting. Learning the enemy’s tactics and using discernment were key to Nehemiah’s success and essential to our discipleship.

- a. We can see the enemy’s tactics against Nehemiah in chapter 6 as he was nearing completion of the wall. Satan used deceit (verse 2), Persistence (verses 4,5), Rumors (verses 6,7), fear/intimidation (verse 9), and the subtle allure of sin (verses 10-13) in order to distract Nehemiah from completing the mission. What tactics has Satan used with other people that we encounter in the Bible?

- b. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What can we learn and apply from that great text in learning how to combat these tactics from Satan in our own lives?

4. Not all attacks are external.
Read Nehemiah 6:10-14

Sometimes it is easy to see spiritual attack coming from outside of our Life, family, community, or church. When the attack comes from within our own sphere, the deception can be difficult to overcome. Verses 10-14 show the allure of this deception and what Nehemiah did to overcome it.

a. The allure of sin in these verses is of particular note because the “attack” came to Nehemiah from a fellow Jew. The allure was subtle in that the security of a home and the temple were given with evil intent. Shemaiah was pained by Nehemiah’s enemies to destroy his reputation. How can we defend from spiritual attacks from within our own community or our own church?

b. Think about the spiritual attacks that come from within our very selves in the form of idolatry. What “idols” currently exist in our culture and how does the enemy use them to distract us from God’s work?

5. God will strengthen your hands.
Read Nehemiah 6:9,15,16

Ultimately, God granted Nehemiah the strength and resolve to see this project through and complete the rebuilding of the wall. It was because of God’s strength and Nehemiah’s obedience that this great work of God was finished. When we realize that it is God who gives us strength to fight spiritual battles, we are emboldened in our faith to not only fight on, but to live as fearless disciples of Jesus. This speaks volumes to those around us and strengthens our witness.

a. How would you describe God’s specific purpose and plan for your life?

b. Describe the Holy Spirit’s role in guiding you through the enemy’s attempts to distract you from God’s plan for your life. What does the Holy Spirit provide that we do not possess in our own strength?

