

Nehemiah
"Strengthen My Hands"
(Nehemiah 6:9)

Nehemiah Chapters 6 & 7: The Completion of the Wall

The enemy's first distraction: Busy Activity (v 1-4)

- 1) How did Nehemiah's enemy's attempt to distract him from the work? What does the persistence of his enemies teach us about our enemy? What was Nehemiah's response?

Reflect: Ephesians 5:15-16; Proverbs 16:9

- 2) How did understanding what God had called him to do help Nehemiah in responding to the distraction of activity? What is the importance of knowing when to say NO?

The distraction of Negativity (v 5-9)

- 1) What was the next strategy of Nehemiah's enemies? What are some of the enemy's strategies of negativity at work in our world today? How can becoming more skilled in recognizing the enemy's tactics help us fight against them?

Reflect: Romans 12:19

- 2) What was Nehemiah's response to their negativity? What can we learn from this practice in his life? What is your instinctive response to negativity in your life? What does God say about how we should respond?

The distraction of Sin (v 10-14)

- 1) What was the final tactic of Nehemiah's enemies? How does using our fears and the instinct of self-preservation reveal the depth of our true enemy's knowledge of human nature? Nehemiah "understood and saw that God had not sent him" (v. 12) and he cried out to God. How did Nehemiah know this? What are the steps to this kind of mature relationship with God?

Reflect: 1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7; Galatians 5:16

- 2) We have seen through our study of Nehemiah that he knew and was committed to what God had called him to do. What is God's calling in your life? How does this affect the choices you are making?

The wall was completed in 52 days (v 15-16)

- 1) The wall was completed by the miraculous work of God through the faith and obedience of His people. What were some of the miraculous things God did through Nehemiah and the people as they rebuilt the wall? Nehemiah also remembered to give glory to God: "...for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God" (v. 16). Why is this important?

Reflect: Proverbs 29:18

- 2) How have you seen God work in your own life and in the lives of others as you step out in faith to do what may seem like an impossible task God has given you to do? What might be some ways you can help yourself to remember what God has done in Your life?

God knows the work that each person has done in His name (v 17-19)

- 1) In spite of the enemy's attempts to discredit Nehemiah and the people through letters sent from the nobles of Judah to Tobiah, Nehemiah and the people were not discouraged. How can we remain steadfast in our faith and trust in God when Satan attempts to discredit or discourage our service to God?

Reflect: 1 Corinthians 3:13

The work wasn't done (7:1-4)

- 1) God still continues to give vision and direction to the people. The victory of building the wall had to be fought for, but it must also be maintained. Nehemiah gave specific instructions to the people on how to maintain and protect the wall. There was a plan. God didn't just care about the wall. He cared about His people. Describe times in your life when God has given you a victory, but there was still a vigilance required of you. What lessons do we learn from this?

The work wasn't done by Nehemiah alone (v 5-73)

- 1) "Then my God put it into my heart..." The assembling and recognizing of the people of Judah was given to Nehemiah directly from God. God sees and knows each person individually and cares about them personally. The continued work of the people of Judah would not be easy. But God wanted them to know He sees them and all the sacrifices they had made and would make in the future in obedience to Him. The work that God calls us to always involves other people. How can we make sure we always remember that God cares for people first?