

Nehemiah 6

In the last chapter, Nehemiah had to deal with the complaints that came from within, among the Jews. Some were taking advantage of others and were violating the law to make profit. Nehemiah's leadership and convictions straightened these abuses.

Nehemiah's common Prayer

- Chapter 5 ends with: "Remember me, O my God, for good..." (5:19).
- This is how the book ends: "...Remember me, O my God, for good" (13:31)

➔ In order for God to remember one for the good that they have done, they must have done good

Nehemiah personally. Three attacks are made:

- Compromise (1-4)
- Rumors (5-9)
- Caught doing wrong (10-14)
 - Take out the leaders and the rest will scatter

B. The walls are completed in 52 days (6:15)

Meeting on the Plains of Ono (1-4)

1. Ono was about 25 miles NW of Jerusalem on the border of Samaria and Ashdod. This meeting would pull Nehemiah away from the work and away from the safety of others

- "Come, let us meet" (2) seems like an innocent invitation
- Temptation is often the strongest when we are alone
- The work of God is much too great to stop and chat with the enemy

Spreading False Rumors (5-9)

1. Two rumors were spread:

- You are planning on rebelling against Persia. You are seeking Jewish independence.
- You are planning to be the king. This would taint the purpose of rebuilding the walls

- "Come now, let us take counsel together" (7)

Characteristics of Rumors:

1. The _____ is never revealed
2. Filled with _____ and _____
3. They are intended to _____ personally and destroy one's _____
4. They are spread by those who want to see you _____

A. The Sixth Chapter brings the enemy (Sanballat & Tobiah) back around. They are acting like pesky mosquitos that won't go away.

1. All that remained in the building project was to set up the gates. The work was nearly completed, and the enemy intensifies the efforts to stop the work by attacking



Nehemiah Recognized Three Things:

- (1) They were the _____ (1)
- (2) They were planning to _____ Nehemiah (2)
- (3) They wanted the work to _____ (3)

Nehemiah Recognized Two Things:

- (1) They _____ up these rumors (8)
- (2) They were trying to _____ us (9)



Helping the Enemy (10-14)

1. Shemaiah wanted Nehemiah to hide in the Temple. He sounded as if he was there to help, but he was really trying to hurt

Only the _____ was to enter within the Temple
(Num 18:7)

- King Uzziah entered the temple to burn incense and was stricken with leprosy as a punishment (2 Chron 26:16-21)
- Nehemiah knows this message is NOT from God because the Lord would not encourage wrong

2. Nehemiah prays to God (14)

Letters to Frighten (17-19)

1. There seems to be an on going correspondence between those in Jerusalem and Tobiah
 - through marriage, Tobiah was related to some and contracts and business dealings were taking place
 - The Jews were reporting the good things the enemy was doing
2. Tobiah's letters were intended to frighten Nehemiah

The Completed Walls Discouraged the Enemy (15-16)

- The work was completed quickly
 - The work was accomplished by God
 - Jerusalem was now safe and secure

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. The attacks of Satan and our enemies are r_____
2. Compromising convictions is actually s_____ out
3. Leaders need to see through the e_____ talk of those not on God's side
4. Leaders must understand that Satan has his _____ on them
5. Even among God's people, there are those who are working for the _____
6. Fear can _____ our hearts
7. In trying times, people of faith _____
8. The good that we do can be lost by a _____ in character and conviction
9. Some people _____ without any remorse
10. K_____ God and what He expects of you, helps you s_____ the course
11. Leaders must know when to say "_____"
12. Not all rumors are _____
13. We must decide _____ side we are on
14. Our accomplishments are through the _____ of God

Nehemiah Recognized Four Things:

- (1) A leader doesn't _____ (11)
- (2) God had not _____ Shemaiah (12)
- (3) Shemaiah had been paid off by the _____ (12)
- (4) They wanted a reason to attack Nehemiah's _____ (13)