

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

October 16, 2022
Nehemiah 6:1-15: I'm Involved in a GREAT Project

גָּדוֹל

Definition: GREAT, in... magnitude, extent, number, intensity, sound, age, importance, and even of God (Great is the Lord!)

*I am carrying on a **great** project and cannot go down.*
(Nehemiah 6:3)



The Wall-Rebuilders Faced:

Ridicule, death-threats, discouragement, exhaustion, relational difficulties...

...and now an attack aimed at their leader - Nehemiah!

6:1-4

Somehow Nehemiah knew they were not sincere at all and intended actually to kill Nehemiah.

Expect opposition when you set out to obey God

- ...that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:11)
- ... for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:4)
- ... I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. (Matthew 10:16)

6:5-9

Why is it important the letter was “unsealed”

Nehemiah speaks truth: You are making it up.
And prays: God, strengthen my hands.

6:10-14

Sometimes discouragement and unbiblical advice come from people you should be able to trust, but these “prophets” lied for money.

Nehemiah prays: “God – You deal with them.”

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When to say no...

...a leader must know how to say no. Some people can't seem to do that. Whether because of their own insecurity, an unbalanced desire always to please other people, or something else, they break down and give in—particularly if the request is repeated.

Nehemiah said no four times.

“Shouldn't I be available for others?” someone asks.

Yes, of course. But there is a difference between living as a servant of God and living to win the approval of man.

In what circumstances should I say no? When I am faced by temptation. When I am being asked to compromise the truth or morality. When a lesser good threatens to undermine a higher one.

To whom should I say no? To my children, quite often. To enemies. To friends who would distract me from God's call. To Satan.

When should I say no? Whenever necessary, and far more often than I do. (James Montgomery Boice)

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Jesus in Mark 1

Do you know your calling so much that you could say “no” to things that might take you from that?

What is our calling?

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

True leaders and followers of Christ will get tested – a lot.

Let it go! God can take care of it. Pray like Nehemiah and stay on the mission.

Keep on being a witness, helping others follow Christ as disciples.

Who are three people you are developing relationship with in hopes of telling them about Jesus?

Who is someone you are currently helping to follow Jesus?

HOME GROUP Questions ...

1. Reread Nehemiah 6:1-14. What were his discouragements and distractions?
2. Do you think we as believers should expect them? Why or why not?
3. Reread Nehemiah 6:3. How did Nehemiah understand His calling?
4. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate your understanding of your calling? Why did you rate yourself at that number?
5. What things keep you from living fully devoted lives to your calling?
6. Describe someone you think lives devoted to the Lord's calling.
7. Read Acts 2:36-47. How did Peter share the good news? What did those who believe do? How did they live? How were they devoted to the work of Christ? How can you grow in these areas?