

# Just Keep Going

Nehemiah 6:1-9

## There is a Danger in Distraction

Nehemiah 6:1-4

*Progress does not always come by way of the easy road.*

Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem, are not new names for us, leaders of the neighboring regions but by no means neighborly. These men still have a few tricks up their sleeve and conspired together again to bring down Nehemiah and stop the work that God had entrusted to his care.

*Discouragement and distraction often come when great progress is being made*

**Wheelbarrows and sawdust**

**Distraction:** The enemy does not need to get Nehemiah to sin, just to stop.

## The Plain of Ono:

- 27-30 miles from Jerusalem, a two-day journey each way.
- On the limits of the territory that Nehemiah was governing
- Northwest border between Samaria & Ashdod.

There is a threat waiting, lurking in the shadows; there is a *danger in our distractions*.

*Idle hands are the devil's playground*

In all reality, it was a coverup (*vs. 2*) *they meant to do me harm...*

*Note: This was the actual factual truth and not presumptuous pessimism.*

**Do not become pessimistic but do grow in being perceptive.**

**Perceptive:** To recognize, observe, pay attention to, or to discern

The way a detective goes through a crime scene SLOWLY

Hebrews 5:13-14 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

***\*And so... Just because an invitation is made does not mean you need to make an appearance.***

## Responding to the invitation, DEALING WITH DISTRACTION.

Nehemiah 6:3-4

**GREAT:** large, intense, or important.

Some things simply are more important than others...

\*Problems come when you don't take your calling seriously

\*A safeguard is staying busy and committed to God and God's call.

David & Bathsheba – He never should have had the idea and opportunity

**For some, the reason life is so messed with is because you have not committed to what God is giving you to do.**

- You can gossip, backbite, and critique – let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth. Isaiah's tongue was seared and sanctified from heaven.
- Pornography & sexual immorality – body is the temple and purchased possession, committed to holiness.
- Fear, worry, anxiousness, haughty condescension and belittling when your mind has not been SET on things above where Christ is and your thoughts taken captive (QUALITY CONTROL.)
- Your motivation for staying married: Quit on marriage, you are doing it for them (now they don't deserve it, for you and you are tired of it, rather than for the Lord and to glorify Him in it.)
- Lost to the quicksand of social media rather than walking circumspectly and being committed to redeeming the time.
- Friends will lead you down the path of destruction when you are only friends with Jesus. (Highschool & College)

**I AM doing a great work... not I once did or one day will.**

***Are you busy about a great work?***

***Are you busy with great work?***

**4x they came to me...**

***When the enemy is persistent, a child of God needs to be consistent***

Don't give your thoughts, emotions, time, and energy, to the distractions of the enemy.

- If you spend time thinking about what the enemy is up to, you are not thinking about what God is up to.
- If you spend time thinking about what the enemy is trying to tear down, you will not be thinking about what God is going to build up.

***You can't stop birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from making a nest in your hair.***

**From Invitation to Intimidation:**

These guys just would not take "no" for an answer.

Like any good fisherman trying to lure their target in and draw them closer, if things are not working... change your location or bait.

**The intimidation that comes through accusation**

**Nehemiah 6:5-7**

5th time, there is an increase... these guys are pretty committed to the downfall of what Nehemiah is up to. Increases from a casual instigation to a full-blown intimidation through accusation. (vs. 9) **trying to make us afraid.**

**\*Being easily offended and drawn into the swamp of self-justification and preservation are some of the easiest buttons for Satan to push...**

## The Letter

- These were not little petty arguments but serious accusations.
- Interesting observation: These are recurring accusations from chapter 2, but with greater details and aggression.

## List the accusations...

- You and the Jews plan to rebel
- That is your reason (motive) for rebuilding the walls
- You will become their king (Insurrection, mutiny, and a coup against the king.
- *You have also appointed prophets to proclaim your new position as king.*
- These matters will be reported to King Artaxerxes.

**Similar accusations to what Absalom did in his quest for kingship**

## (vs. 5) open letter

The rumor mill at gossip central filled with all the Mr. and Mrs. busybodies.

Facebook, X, Twitter, etc. – Trump & Elon

## WHAT DO YOU DO?

THE LORD IS MY DEFENSE... reviling for reviling...

Psalm 94:22 But the LORD has been my defense, and my God the rock of my refuge.

If this were a TV Show, there would be a disclaimer:

### WARNING:

What you are about to read is done by a spiritually mature professional.  
Be careful if you try this at home.

## Nehemiah 6:8-9

***Nehemiah was laser clear without adding fuel to the fire... he gets right up to the edge and doesn't fall off.***

## Fabricating and a figment of your own imagination

1. You are making up a false accusation, like with Jesus
2. They have thought and schemed so much that they believe their own news.

## STAY FAITHFUL TO THE CALLING.

- If you are scared... DO THE BIBLICAL THING
- If you are unsure... DO THE BIBLICAL THING
- If you are insecure and don't have what it takes... DO THE BIBLICAL THING
- If you doubt it will work out... DO THE BIBLICAL THING

When distractions come knocking and the enemy is not trying to get you to sin, he is just trying to get you to stop the great work God has given you to do.

- **DISERN** what is true
- Stay **DISCIPLINED** to the task
- Be **DIRECT** and clear
- **DEPEND** on God.

Prays himself strong... (doubles down... not in self strength but in God strength)