

**Nehemiah 6:1–16**

**Main Idea:** We should not get distracted from God’s next BIG thing.

**Remembering the Last BIG Thing**

Six years ago, we believed that expanding our facility was God’s next BIG thing for GCC. It seemed terribly important. It had been needed for a long time. We had several challenges to overcome. We broke ground with the money we had, and the project was fully paid for in nine months! Since then, several new families have found a home at Grace. Remembering what God has already done gives us confidence for what He hasn’t revealed yet.

**God’s Next BIG Thing – For You**

What about God’s next big thing for you? Your family? Your faithwalk? What is God doing to prepare you for His next step? More importantly perhaps, what are you doing to take that next step? I have come to the conclusion that failing or compromising can be harmful, but never attempting life-change is even more harmful. The good of wanting to change outweighs the bad of failing when we try. Or the good of trying is better than the bad of failing – Don’t be afraid; don’t beat yourself up when you fail. God honors effort and movement.

**That ONE BIG Thing**

What is that “ONE BIG thing” for you? Unfortunately, we live in a culture that promotes “care-free living” over “care-full living”. The American dream is to live it up and ignore the consequences. Careful living is for librarians and spiritual prudes, but it’s not for anyone wanting to get the most out of life. I have never met anyone on the back side of care-free living and its consequences that didn’t wish things were different for them – Baggage.

**Nehemiah’s BIG Thing**

Nehemiah knew that any distraction might cost him his life. But notice that’s not how he responds. His concern is for the work. The work mattered. It was important! You have important work to do. Any distraction might kill your marriage, family, career, etc. Your work is too important!

**Your 1 BIG Thing**

I didn’t have to give you the examples today because you know what your 1 BIG thing is. That’s the beauty of Scripture and the faithwalk. God wants you to know what it is. He wants you to try. He has already made you aware; that’s why you wrestle with feelings of urgency and obligation. You need to act. You want to act. Go for it! It’s a great work. Don’t give up or be distracted. *“I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.”*

It took Nehemiah 52 days to complete his work. I hope it only takes 52 days to complete your work. But if it doesn’t, the work is important, nonetheless. God can help you, but you cannot “come down.” Stay on the wall!

**Family Night – Read Nehemiah 6:1-16**

- **Elementary School:** Ask, “What was Nehemiah’s work? What did Sanballot want from Nehemiah? What were they going to do to Nehemiah? Why did Nehemiah decline their invitation?”
- **Middle / High School:** Ask, “What is something that is important to you in the coming year? Why is it important to you? What can you learn from Nehemiah? What most often distracts you from important work?”

**Prayer:** “Father, help us complete our important work. Amen”

**Velocity (Middle and High School Students)**

**Velocity:** No meeting this Wednesday. Happy New Year! Winterblast – January 16-19.

**Gravity:** Not Today.

**Today’s Songs**

*Joy to the World*

*Silent Night*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*The First Noel*

**Happy New Year!**

**Velocity Ski Trip to Winterblast**

We will leave the church on Friday, January 16, promptly at noon. You will need money for 3 meals and any souvenirs you want to buy. Please get your t-shirt size to Tyler ASAP.

**Mother/Son Basketball**

Mothers and sons are invited to a GSU Basketball game on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$25 per couple or \$35 if you have more than one child. You can sign up online **ONLY** until January 18<sup>th</sup>.