

Nehemiah – Rebuild

Chapter 6 “Focus & Perseverance”

Review

Chapter 5: Danger from Within

- Whenever God’s work is thriving, the Enemy tries his best to create trouble. When external force doesn’t work, he will use the tactic of internal conflict.
 - Align your heart with the heart of God. The Word of God reveals the heart of God.
 - Daily living as a disciple of Jesus. It’s not what you do, but who you are.

Chapter 6

BIG IDEA: Your enemy is relentless and may employ many different strategies to distract or defeat you. There are 3 Keys to staying the course.

The Challenge of Diversion/Distraction (vv.1-4)

- Our enemy will attempt to take our focus off of the mission set ahead of us.

Proverbs 29:5–6 (MSG) — ⁵ A flattering neighbor is up to no good; he’s probably planning to take advantage of you. ⁶ Evil people fall into their own traps; good people run the other way, glad to escape.

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) — ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Psalms 119:1–3 (NLT) — ¹ Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. ² Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. ³ They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths.

The Challenge of False Accusation (vv.5-9)

- Character assassination, false accusations are used to cause us to stand down or step back from God’s work.
 - Some say, “The price is too high.”, “This may affect my standing in the community.”, etc.

1 Peter 3:16 (NLT) — ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

- False accusations cause us to fear, ‘strike a deal’ to make them stop.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) — ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

1 Chronicles 28:20 (ESV) — ²⁰ Then David said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.

The Challenge of False Religion (vv.10-14)

- Our enemy will use deception to use what appears to be logical or justified actions to avoid harm or hard circumstances.

Colossians 2:8 (NLT) — ⁸ Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Galatians 1:10 (NIV) — ¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

The Challenge of the Wall completed (vv.15-16)

- Staying the course, even when it seems impossible is one of the greatest testimonies to who God is.

Matthew 19:26 (NIV) — ²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Nehemiah 6:16 (NIV) — ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

Lingering Challenges (vv.17-19)

- Be wise and cautious as to who you become indebted to.

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NLT) — ¹⁴ Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?

Application

Three keys to withstanding the enemy’s is relentless strategies to distract or defeat you.

1. The Word of God
 - a. God, what are you revealing about who you are?
 - b. God, what truths and lessons do I need to apply in my own life?
2. The Spirit of God
 - a. Be quiet and patient before responding.
 - b. With faith and courage live out what you know is God’s truths
3. The People of God
 - a. Commit and submit to be in relationship with other believers

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV) — ²³ Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

Hebrews 3:12–13 (NIV) — ¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.