

Series: Nehemiah--Servant to The King

"When Attacks Get Personal" (Fighting Fear & Distraction)

Scripture: Nehemiah 6

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, October 24, 2010

Review: (Nehemiah 1:1-6:1)

Chapter 1: B _____.

Chapter 2: B _____ & B _____.

Chapter 3: B _____.

Chapter 4: B _____.

Chapter 5: B _____.

Chapter 6:1: B _____!

Introduction:

- The enemies of God utilized tactics intended to induce _____ and _____.
Scriptures: Nehemiah 6:2, 3, 9, 13, 19

- Nehemiah's opponents employed the schemes of Satan, who is the _____, _____, _____, _____ and in an _____.

Scriptures: John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; Matthew 4:3; Revelation 12:10; 1 Peter 5:8

Fear and Distraction Tactic #1: _____ (Nehemiah 6:2-4)

- A. Temptation:** To trust our _____ and follow our _____, rather than to trust God's certain _____ and _____.

*"Deceit is carried on by degrees, little by little.
We are first drawn away from watchfulness, then from obedience."
(Jerry Bridges, "Pursuit of Holiness")*

- B. God Glorifying Response:** _____ (vv. 2-3)

*"Whether men hate us or not, our walk must be the same:
we must not accommodate ourselves to their wishes, but to God's commands." (Charles Simeon)*

Fear and Distraction Tactic #2: _____ (Nehemiah 6:4-9)

- What was the significance of an open letter?

- A. Temptation:** _____ or _____

- B. God Glorifying Response:** _____ (v. 8)

Fear and Distraction Tactic #3: _____ (Nehemiah 6:5-9)

A. Temptation: _____ and proud _____.

B. God Glorifying Response: _____ (vv. 8-9)

Fear and Distraction Tactic #4: _____ (Nehemiah 6:10-14)

A. Temptations: (v. 10)

- Shemaiah appealed to Nehemiah's pride of _____ before God and his pride of _____ to the community.
- There were two problems with Shemaiah's appeal to Nehemiah:
 - He was inciting rebellion against **God's** _____.
 - He was making light of **God's** _____.

"We are drawn away from obedience when we question what God says in His Word."

(Jerry Bridges, "Pursuit of Holiness")

B. God glorifying response: _____ (vv. 11, 13)

A Significant Milestone:

The project was _____ (v. 15)

God was _____ (v. 16)

But God's work was not done!

Fear and Distraction Tactic #5: _____ (Nehemiah 6:17-19)

A. Temptation: Desire for _____ and _____.

B. God glorifying response: _____ (Acts 5:29; Eph 6:6-8)

Conclusion: Consider and imitate Nehemiah's God-Glorifying Character:

- _____ (wisdom from God) (Nehemiah 6:2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 19)
- _____ (confidence in God) (Nehemiah 6:3-4, 11)
- _____ (dependence on God) (Nehemiah 6:9, 14, 16)

My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

(Psalms 34:2-4)

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Review: (Nehemiah 1:1-6:1)

- Chapter 1:** **Brokenness:** Nehemiah fasted, prayed and planned in response to the news of the broken city.
- Chapter 2:** **Boldness & Blessing:** Nehemiah's boldness was blessed by his commissioning.
- Chapter 3:** **Building:** Everyone had their part and did their part.
- Chapter 4:** **Bullying:** Taunts, threats and terrorism from the outside.
- Chapter 5:** **Brotherhood:** Reaffirmed unity after internal dissension.
- Chapter 6:1:** **Built!** The wall was built. The gates were incomplete.

Introduction:

- The enemies of God utilized tactics intended to induce paralyzing fear and time-wasting distractions.
Scriptures: Nehemiah 6:2, 3, 9, 13, 19
- Nehemiah's opponents employed the schemes of Satan, who is the Deceiver, Tempter, Accuser, Intimidator and in an Unholy Alliance.
Scriptures: John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; Matthew 4:3; Revelation 12:10; 1 Peter 5:8

Fear and Distraction Tactic #1: Deception (Nehemiah 6:2-4):

- C. Temptation:** To trust our feelings and follow our desires, rather than to trust God's certain promises and truths.

"Deceit is carried on by degrees, little by little.
We are first drawn away from watchfulness, then from obedience."
(Jerry Bridges, "Pursuit of Holiness")

- D. God Glorifying Response:** Discerning Conviction. (vv. 2-3)

*"Whether men hate us or not, our walk must be the same:
we must not accommodate ourselves to their wishes, but to God's commands." (Charles Simeon)*

Fear and Distraction Tactic #2: Persistence (Nehemiah 6:4-9):

- What was the significance of an open letter?

- C. Temptation:** Self-reliance or timidity.

- D. God Glorifying Response:** Prayerful Confidence. (v. 8)

Fear and Distraction Tactic #3: Accusation (Nehemiah 6:5-9):

C. **Temptation:** Fear of man and proud self-defense.

D. **God Glorifying Response:** Meek Constancy. (vv. 8-9)

Fear and Distraction Tactic #4: Intimidation (Nehemiah 6:10-14)

C. **Temptations:** (v. 10)

- Shemaiah appealed to Nehemiah's *pride of position before God & importance to the community.*
- There were two problems with Shemaiah's appeal to Nehemiah:
 - He was inciting rebellion against God's authority.
 - He was making light of God's sovereignty.

*"We are drawn away from obedience when we question what God says in His Word."
(Jerry Bridges, "Pursuit of Holiness")*

D. **God glorifying response:** Humble Courage. (vv. 11, 13)

A Significant Milestone:

The project was **completed** (v. 15)

God was **glorified** (v. 16)

But God's work was not done!

Fear and Distraction Tactic #5: Coalition (Nehemiah 6:17-19)

C. **Temptation:** Desire for power and position.

D. **God glorifying response:** Bold Obedience. (Acts 5:29; Eph 6:6-8)

Conclusion: Consider and imitate Nehemiah's God-Glorifying Character:

- Discernment (wisdom from God) (Neh. 6:2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 19)
- Determination (confidence in God) (Neh. 6:3-4, 11)
- Dependence (dependence on God) (Neh. 6:9, 14, 16)

*My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
(Psalms 34:2-4)*