

## Tunnel Vision – Nehemiah 6:1-16

Have you ever worked really hard & long on a project, just to at the very end leave the finishing touches undone? Ex: At my house growing up...

For Nehemiah, the work on the wall was nearly done! There were no breaches left, only the doors needed to be set! **Time to celebrate right?**

Sanballat and Geshem made one last ditch effort to stop this good work!

Nehemiah had resisted the outside opposition of ridicule, intimidation, & threats. He addressed the fears, insecurities & weaknesses of his own people. He also opposed the sin from within his own camp! Now what?

In chapter 6, **Nehemiah faces the disguised opposition of distraction!**

Vs. 2 - Sanballat & Geshem send word to Nehemiah that they want him to meet with them! But for what? What were their intentions? Good or evil?

- Maybe they wanted to apologize for their previous actions!
- **Maybe they wanted to give a concession speech!**
- Maybe they had changed & now they wanted to be good neighbors!

What would you have done if you were in Nehemiah's shoes?

Would you have...

- Met with them in hopes that they might be wanting to apologize?
- Met with them just to rub it in their faces that they had failed?
- **Met with them hoping to find some common ground?**

Nehemiah must've thought about these things, but his response was different!

**Vs. 3 - "I am doing a great work & I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it & come down to you?"** What prompted such a response?

**Nehemiah's answer was "NO!"** He had no time to concern himself with the things that would distract him from fulfilling what God had called him to!

**He was not easily distracted because he believed that the work he was engaged in was of highest priority & significance!** What about us?

When was the last time we said "no" to something that we knew would distract us from the things God has called us to as His people?

**Jesus has called us, His followers today, to live out the "Great Commission!"**

We are called to be disciples who make disciples! It's a Godly work, but God has called us to join Him in it! It is the Great Co-mission!

How is our resolve to faithfully see this work God has called us to get done? Do we respond like Nehemiah, or have distractions strayed us off course?

**What distractions are keeping you from being disciplined in your faith?**

What distractions are keeping you from discipling others in their faith?

Are you willing to name them? \_\_\_\_\_

These are disguised oppositions that need to be named for what they are!

Some distractions may not be what we would call evil, but do we see them as causing harm b/c they can render us useless in the Kingdom of God?

**Like Nehemiah, we need tunnel vision!** Nehemiah resisted these distractions because nothing was of greater significance/purpose than finishing the work God had called him to.

Will we too say "NO" to what gets in the way of what God has called us to?

It still wasn't over for Nehemiah, **Sanballat's next attempt to lure him away from the work was to spread false rumors about him thru an open letter!**

Vs 5-7 reveals the contents of these false rumors. Vs 8-9 reveals Nehemiah's response – **He faced them head on & he continued with prayer for strength!**

But there's more! When even this failed, Sanballat & Tobiah tried to distract Nehemiah by paying off one of the priests to send them both into hiding!

**Nehemiah once again stays the course b/c his tunnel vision would not allow him to back down – Vs. 11 - "Should such a man as I run away?"**

Nehemiah also knew that what Shemaiah was proposing would not only be cowardly but it would also be wrong - **Vs. 11 "And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in."** Nehemiah knew God's Word!

No one ever said that following God & joining Him in the work He is doing in this world would be easy, but God does promise us that He will be w/ us in it

For Nehemiah, his tunnel vision paid off, the wall was completed in only 52 days, & all those who opposed this work **"fell in their own esteem."** And it was known to all that **"this work had been accomplished with the help of God."**

## 2-18-18 Tunnel Vision – Nehemiah 6:1-16

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