

Introduction:

Our Model - Nehemiah

Chapter	4	5	6	7	8
Cause of Adversity	Obedience	Disobedience	Personal Attack	Circumstances	God's Discipline
N.T. Parallel	1 Peter 4:12-19	Galatians 6:7-8	Ephesians 6:10-12	Luke 13:1-5	Hebrews 12:5-11
Typical Response	Give up	Conform	Fear	Lose Heart	Ignore
Nehemiah's Response	Pray/Prepare	Confront	Fight	Look for Plan B	Submit
God's Deliverance	Enemies Thwarted	Repentance & Unity	Protection	A New Game-plan	Revival
Timeless Truth	"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13				
Motto	"I can't, He never said I could; He can, He always said He would."				

- When do personal attacks occur? Why?
- Who is behind these attacks? Ephesians 6:10-12
- How do we win spiritual battles? Ephesians 6:13-18

Satan's strategy: Destroy the difference maker and you stop the project

Plan A: Deception – “He is the father of lies”

John 8:44

¹Now it came about when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, ²then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono.” But they were planning to harm me. ³So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?” ⁴They sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way.

Nehemiah 6:1-4

- The temptation - Get _____.
- New Testament command - “Put on the belt of truth.”
- Nehemiah's response - Discernment and _____.

Plan B: Condemnation – “He accuses the brethren”

Revelation 12:10

⁵Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand. ⁶In it was written, “It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. ⁷You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, ‘A king is in Judah!’ And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together.” ⁸Then I sent a message to him saying, “Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing them in your own mind.” ⁹For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, “They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done.” But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

Nehemiah 6:5-9

- The temptation - _____
- New Testament command - “Put on the breastplate of righteousness.”
- Nehemiah's response - Discernment, declaring the truth, praying for strength.

Plan C: Doubt – “Did God really say . . .”

Genesis 3:1

¹⁰When I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined at home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you, and they are coming to kill you at night.” ¹¹But I said, “Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.” ¹²Then I perceived that surely God had not sent him, but he uttered his prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³He was hired for this reason, that I might become frightened and act accordingly and sin, so that they might have an evil report in order that they could reproach me. ¹⁴Remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these works of theirs, and also Noadiah the prophetess and the rest of the prophets who were trying to frighten me. ¹⁵***So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.*** ¹⁶When all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations surrounding us saw it, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

Nehemiah 6:10-16

- The temptation - Question your _____.
- New Testament command - “...feet shod with the gospel,”
- Nehemiah’s response - Discernment, offensive prayer, perseverance.

Plan D: Fear – “He is like a roaming lion.”

1 Peter 5:8

¹⁷Also in those days many letters went from the nobles of Judah to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. ¹⁸For many in Judah were bound by oath to him because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. ¹⁹Moreover, they were speaking about his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. Then Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.

Nehemiah 6:17-19

- The temptation - Lose _____.
- New Testament command - “...taking up the shield of faith.”
- Nehemiah’s response - Discernment, perseverance

Lessons from Nehemiah 6

3 Principles to follow when personally attacked:

1. Recognize the _____ of the opposition.
(Your battle is not against flesh and blood)
2. Remember: 1 John 4:4
“*He who is _____ you is greater than he who is in the world.*”
(Put on the full armor of God)
3. The only way to lose is to _____!
(Keep Pressing Ahead)

*For those who need help in understanding spiritual warfare, see “The Invisible War” in book, CD, or DVD format – available at LivingontheEdge.org

Discussion Questions:

1. Share your initial response to this message.
2. Why is it critical for us to define the source of personal attacks?
3. Which tactic (A, B, C, D) are you currently experiencing?
4. What helped you most from this passage? Why?
5. Who would pray with you and support you in your personal struggle? Who might need your help?