

Building for Christ: The Book of Nehemiah
Bible Study
Lesson 5
Nehemiah 6

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

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We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!



Introduction: Have you ever been focused on a task and been interrupted by someone? Interruptions can create a challenge for us, especially when we are facing deadlines or the task is of great importance. Imagine Nehemiah’s feelings as he had a narrow focus of accomplishing the rebuilding of the wall and was almost done. His oversight of the building project was nearly complete, but 99% was not the goal. In chapter 6 of Nehemiah, we find that the gates need to be completed before the builders could consider the project finished. In the midst of their work opposers to the completion of the wall come back to disrupt their great work. In this lesson, students will learn the importance of focusing on the task at hand and will see the ways in which God protects his people as they accomplish His tasks!



Reading for Lesson 5

Nehemiah 6

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Name pronunciations

Sanballat (**San**=sand without the ‘d, **ballat**=sounds like mallet or pallet. The emphasis is on the “San” part of the name)

Tobiah (**To**=toe, **bi**=buy, **ah**=uh. The emphasis is on the “bi” part of the name)

Geshem (**Ge**= rhymes with Key + **shem**=rhymes with them. The emphasis is on the “Ge” part of the name)

Delaiah (**Delai**= pronounced like the word delay + **ah**=uh)

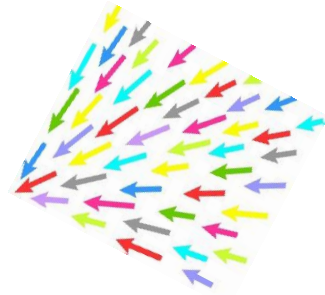
Shemaiah (**She**=sounds like the “e” sound of words like red or head + **mai**=my + **ah**=uh with the emphasis on the “mai” part of the name)

Mehetabel (**Me** = me with the “e” sound of words like red or head + **het**= rhymes with bet + **a**=uh + **bel**= sounds like bell with the emphasis on the “het” part of the name)

I. Dangerous Distractions—vs 1-8

Chapter 6 begins with an amazing report. The work was nearly completed! The remaining work consisted of putting the gates on the hinges. Nehemiah's leadership had been successful to this point. Imagine the excitement amongst those who were working. Remember, chapter 3 indicates this was a large undertaking where nearly everyone participated.

Unfortunately, opposition to the work was still present. What do you notice about Sanballat's and Geshem's attempt at disrupting the work?



What do the men ask Nehemiah to do and to what end?

REMEMBER: The enemy always purposes in his mind to steal, kill, and destroy. When you are working within God's will, the enemy becomes uniquely attuned to your work and seeks to stop you at all costs even if it means destroying you, ruining your reputation, or tempting you to get involved in what seems to be good, but is really not good.

In verse 4, Nehemiah points us to the persistence of the requests to leave the work and to meet with the enemy. What work have you had for Christ where people have tried to get you off track and focus on other pursuits?

I Was Planning on Doing	I Got Distracted by

➤ What impact did this have on you? On God's purpose for your life?



In verses 5-8 Sanballat and Geshem resort to lies and construct a letter to send to the Persian king. What does this letter say and how could this be problematic for Nehemiah? Remember Ezra 4...Hint. Hint.

II. Weakness or Strength---Verse 9

This verse flows within the narrative of the circumstance but it also represents an opportunity for us to think about strength. Notice the argument the opposition had against Nehemiah. “Their hands will get too weak...” CONSIDER THIS: The enemy is correct. But why?

How do these 4 verses indicate that the enemy was correct?

John 15: 5....	apart from me (Jesus) you can do nothing
Philippians 4: 14...	(inverse thought of the scripture) I cannot do anything without Christ who strengthens me.
Psalms 121: 2...	My help comes from The Lord (not myself)
Isaiah 40:30-31	Even the youth shall grow weary...

How does Nehemiah respond to this reality?

Nehemiah's response has now become very repetitive. Repetition in this sense is good. Nehemiah recognizes that his strength is limited. The enemy recognizes his strength is limited. To account for this reality, Nehemiah calls upon the one who has sent him and approved his work. He prays a simple prayer to THE power source. He asks God, "Strengthen our hands".

- This prayer is powerful and important because it reminds us that we are limited in our own might, but with God on our side we have access to His strength. The Lord is our strength!
- How have you seen God be your strength?

Chapter six could be acknowledged as the leadership chapter of Nehemiah. Nehemiah also receives God's wisdom. As the opposition comes upon the work of Nehemiah, readers can see that God gives him not only strength, but also wisdom and protection. Could it be that all of this relates to Nehemiah's focus on God's purpose for his life? Nehemiah could have remained a cup bearer which is a very important role, but to what end? Notice this is not an issue of good life versus bad life. Nehemiah's role was a choice of GOOD LIFE vs. BEST LIFE. To understand the difference, consider the following.

**Which Do
You Choose
Most?**



Good Life = Accomplishments for self, acquisition of possessions, bothering no one and not being bothered by anyone, upward mobility.

Best Life= Legacy living, acquisitions which impact other's lives, pushing people to achieve their best, bringing people up with you, points people to Christ



**How is the completion of the wall an example of
GOOD LIFE vs. BEST LIFE?**

Group Activity:

Create a list of ways the completion of the wall represents Nehemiah's choice to build the best life.

Conclusion: If the BEST LIFE points people to God, where do you see that occurring in chapter 6? Remember, you have not gotten to your purpose if you are not pointing people to Jesus!!