



Midweek Study

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REBUILDING my BROKEN WORLD

Through Nehemiah

Don't Quit Before You Finish^a

Nehemiah 6:1-19

*It seems like every time the people of God say "Let us arise and build,"
satan and those he uses say "We will arise and tear down."*

Many of us start off with lofty goals – to be a person of integrity, to stay faithful in your marriage. Yet, the compromise that exists all around you can wear you down. You have to make decisions to build up the marriage, to keep that relationship strong. No matter what goals you have, it's not about how you start, but how you finish.

Areas to Conquer So You Can Finish Strong:

I. **Rumor and Ridicule (v.5-9) - Sanballat**

Nehemiah 6:7 (NKJV) — 7 And **you have also appointed prophets** to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.

Nehemiah did not "appoint" phony prophets, but they did (see v.12).

See John 5:41, 44; John 12:43

II. **Compromise (v.10-14) - Shemaiah**

Nehemiah 6:12 (NKJV) — 12 Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

This false prophet tried to convince Nehemiah to fear for his life and hide in the temple. Then, the enemies would hear about it and spread the bad word that Nehemiah, a layperson, entered the temple, which was forbidden. "This man does not care about God's laws!"

^a I appreciated this statement taken from a Jimmy Draper book by the same title.

III. **Bad Relationships (v. 17-19) – Tobiah**

Tobiah has insiders going to Nehemiah in order to tell him, “You’ve got to have Tobiah around. He’s a good guy.”

The people of God did not understand the evil intentions of this man, Tobiah.

Surround yourself with godly people that will help you build!

Proverbs 12:26 (NKJV) — The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NKJV) — **33** Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”

Exodus 23:2 (NKJV) — **2** You shall not follow a crowd to do evil...

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV) — Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

IV. **Distractions (v.1-4) – Sanballat and Geshem**

Nehemiah 6:3 (NKJV) — **3** So I sent messengers to them, saying, **“I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down.** Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”

Distractions come when you substitute the best with something good. You can spend all your time on that which is good, and still not accomplish the plan God has for you.

Hebrews 12:1-2 – “Let us lay aside the weights and the sins that so easily ensnare us.”

See **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** - **I run in such a way in order to WIN!**

- Are you caring for a child in the home, which you feel God has called you to, but other opportunities abound – **“I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.”**

- Are you striving to stay focused serving in a specific area of ministry? Someone comes along, and tries to mention another need – **“I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.”**

The Result: 52 Days Completed (v.15-16)

Nehemiah 6:15–16 (NKJV) — **15** So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in **fifty-two days.**
16 And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that **this work was done by our God.**