



## **ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION**

### **Nehemiah 6:1-16**

- **The Lord has great plans and purposes for His people that He begins to reveal to us and make happen when we are willing to put Him first in our lives.**
- *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes.”* (Jeremiah 29:11-14)
- **We begin to see God’s plans and purposes fulfilled in our lives as we: 1) pray for direction (Nehemiah 1), 2) plan well, (Nehemiah 2), 3) collaborate with others (Nehemiah 3), 5) deal with opposition (Nehemiah 4) and resolve conflict (Nehemiah 5); and then we have to focus on accomplishing the mission (Nehemiah 6).**
- *“The wall was finished - just fifty-two days after we had begun.”* (Nehemiah 6:15)
- **Nehemiah 6 teaches us how to complete our life, relationship and vocational plans and experience new measures of success in different parts of our lives.**

#### ***Accomplishing Our Mission Requires:***

#### **MOVING FORWARD IN SPITE OF DISTRACTIONS**

- Nehemiah - *“Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained - though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, so I replied by sending this message to them: ‘I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?’ Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply.”* (Nehemiah 6:1-4)
- **Life is always going to be filled with distractions that seek to keep us from pursuing and fulfilling “steps to success” in our lives.**
- ***What distractions do I constantly deal with as I seek to move forward with my life?***
- **If we want to accomplish something significant in our lives, circumstances, relationships or careers, we have to stay focused in spite of distractions.**

- *“Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize . . .”* (Philippians 3:13-14)

***Accomplishing Our Mission Requires:***

**MOVING FORWARD IN SPITE OF DEFAMATION**

- *“The fifth time, Sanballat’s servant came with an open letter in his hand, and this is what it said: ‘There is a rumor among the surrounding nations, and Geshem tells me it is true, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king. He also reports that you have appointed prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim about you, ‘Look! There is a king in Judah!’ You can be very sure that this report will get back to the king, so I suggest that you come and talk it over with me.”* (Nehemiah 6:5-7)
- **Anyone who wants to pursue success in different areas of their lives will be defamed and criticized by people who have ulterior motives.**
- **Jesus was the most falsely accused person in history.**
- Jesus – *“Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in Heaven.”* (Matthew 5:11-12)
- **To overcome false accusations we have to *Realize People’s Motives.***
  - Nehemiah - *“They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work.”* (Nehemiah 6:9)
- **To overcome false accusations we have to *Refute The Accusations.***
  - Nehemiah - *“I replied, ‘There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing.’”* (Nehemiah 6:8)
- **To overcome false accusations we have to *Continue Praying.***
  - Nehemiah - *“But I prayed, ‘Now strengthen my hands.’”* (Nehemiah 6:9 NIV)
- *“If I were to try to read, much less answer all the attacks made against me this shop would close for business. I do my best, the very best I know how, the very best I can. I plan to keep on doing it until the end. And if the end brings me out wrong, then ten angels swearing that I was right wouldn’t make a difference.”* (Abraham Lincoln)

***Accomplishing Our Mission Requires:***

**MOVING FORWARD IN SPITE OF DIFFICULTIES**

- Nehemiah - *“Later I went to visit Shemaiah son of Delaiah and grandson of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home. He said, ‘Let us meet together inside the Temple of God and bolt the doors shut. Your enemies are coming to kill you tonight.’ But I replied, ‘Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won’t do it!’ I realized that God had not spoken to him, but that he had uttered this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me.”* (Nehemiah 6:10-13)
- **Nehemiah’s enemies tried to sidetrack him, then slander him, and then scare him.**

- Nehemiah - *“Remember, O my God, all the evil things that Tobiah and Sanballat have done. And remember Noadiah the prophet and all the prophets like her who have tried to intimidate me.”* (Nehemiah 6:14)
- **Nehemiah didn’t allow his enemies to scare him because: 1) he wasn’t a coward (Nehemiah 6:11), 2) he knew that fear wasn’t from the Lord (Nehemiah 6:12), and he believed that God was greater than his problems or enemies (Nehemiah 6:14).**
- Nehemiah – *“I realized that God had not spoken to him.”* (Nehemiah 6:12)
- **We always have to be wary when people say to us, “God told me to tell you this.”**
- Nehemiah - *“They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me.”* (Nehemiah 6:11-13)
- **We should never let fear or intimidation keep us from living for the Lord and serving Him.**
- *“The Lord is my light and my salvation - so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid.”* (Psalm 27:1-3)
  
- Nehemiah - *“When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it (the completion of Jerusalem’s walls), they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.”* (Nehemiah 6:16)
- **Overcoming our fears and focusing on doing what God has called us to do brings fear to our enemies.**
- **To accomplish something big for God we must have a *Compelling Purpose*.**
  - Nehemiah – *“I am engaged in a great work.”* (Nehemiah 6:3)
  - **Great lives are produced by a commitment to a great cause, and the greatest cause we can give our life to is the expansion of God’s Kingdom.**
  - **The purpose of every Christian should be to love the Lord, love others, reach non-Christians and make disciples (Matthew 22:37-39, 28:19-20).**
  - **A lot of churches and Christians are kept from fulfilling their mission because they give in to distractions, defamation or danger.**
- **To accomplish something big for God we must have a *Clear Perspective*.**
  - Nehemiah was able to “smell out” traps every time (Nehemiah 6:2, 9, 12).
  - *“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God . . .”* (James 1:5)
  - **Fear and worry more than anything else clouds our perspective.**
- **To accomplish something big for God we must be *Constantly Praying*.**
  - Nehemiah – *“But I prayed, ‘Now strengthen my hands.’”* (Nehemiah 6:9 NIV)
  - **Nehemiah’s first response was always to pray.**
  - *“Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.”* (Luke 18:1)
- **To accomplish something big for God we must have a *Courageous Persistence*.**
  - Nehemiah - *“So I continued the work with even greater determination.”* (Nehemiah 6:9)
  - **One of the great keys to success is the ability to “hang in there.”**
  - **Courage is not the absence of fear, but moving ahead in spite of our fears.**

- *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)*
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message?***