

**Sermon 06:** "Resisting Satan's Schemes"

**Scripture:** [Nehemiah 6: 1-19](#)

**Theme:** *To complete the work God has given us to do, we must discern and resist Satan's many schemes.*

Upon first reading of this chapter, one would wonder what the difference is between this and Nehemiah 4. Both of these chapters talk about Satan's efforts to stop the Lord's work. However, in this chapter we see Satan take his work one step farther with Nehemiah.

**Intrigue** is the next form of opposition to the Lord's work that we find in Nehemiah. We read in verses 1-4 that there was a subtle dialogue coming from the government officials. There was a "Hey Nehemiah, lets get together and 'talk' about this whole rebuilding the wall thing" coming from Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem. They were trying to pull the wool over his eyes. What was Nehemiah's reaction to these men? For starters, he had a listening ear to the things of God and was able to discern their schemes! He was quick and consistent in his priorities and tells them, "*I am doing a great work and cannot come down.*"<sup>1</sup>

Are you able to think when you just tried to shrug someone else off and give him or her a legit answer? Most of us would be able to shrug someone off, and maybe try to make up a decent lie that would get the person off our back. Yet Nehemiah remains a man of the Lord and one of integrity. As we face opposition to the Lord's work, we need to strive to combat intrigue or the schemes of Satan.

**Innuendos** is another form of opposition that Nehemiah comes across. If you are anything like me you have to think about what the word innuendo means for a bit. The word innuendo can mean a suggestive or oblique remark. We see this in verses 5-9, where Nehemiah hears from the government officials all of the "ideas" that Nehemiah is planning. What does Nehemiah do in this instance? We see that he gives an immediate rebuttal and then goes to God in prayer. He quickly extinguishes any chance of gossip that could possibly spread throughout Jerusalem.

What would it look like for us to do this when we hear of these things? How much stronger would the Church of Jesus Christ be if we were to handle Satan's attacks in this way? How do we encourage others to stand firm in this way of handling opposition? Do we expect these types of opposition to happen in a way that [Ephesians 6: 10-20](#) talks about? While these questions are open ended and left unanswered, this is something that we as a covenant community need to

---

<sup>1</sup> Nehemiah 6:3

# NEHEMIAH

The Restoration of God's People

wrestle with. If we do not wrestle with these things, then we are just setting ourselves up to come and have Satan take an even deeper foothold in our lives.

The last form this week that Nehemiah comes across is *intimidation*. Nehemiah then encounters a man in verses 10-14 that was hired by the government officials to intimidate Nehemiah. He tries to lure Nehemiah into the temple and lock the doors so that Nehemiah could hide. However, Nehemiah quickly senses that there is something strange going on and feels the Lord calling Nehemiah out of that situation.

Think to yourself when the last time you experience something like this. When was the last time you were serving the Lord and faced opposition and someone came in with intimidation to distract you or derail you from your work and service to the Lord? What are steps that you can put in place to make sure that this does not happen?

What are topics or discussion that you find intimidating about God, Scripture, or the Church? What are ways that we as a small group can help you? What are ways that we as a church can help you?

## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How can a believer grow in discernment so as to avoid Satan's traps?
2. How can we discern when to respond to false rumors about us versus letting them die out on their own?
3. How can we know which doctrines are worth dividing over and which doctrines should be set aside to preserve unity?
4. Since Satan disguises himself as an angel of light and his servants as servants of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:14-15), how can we be on guard against his servants in the church?

## SUMMING IT UP:

In his goal of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah had to stand up to the violent threats of the enemy (chapter 4). He had to deal with internal conflict between the wealthy and poor Jews (chapter 5). He is almost done now. The breaches in the wall have been repaired, and the wall is complete except for the doors in the gates. But the enemy has not given up. So, take some time this week to read through **Nehemiah 6** so you are ready to dive in this upcoming Sunday.