



A TIME TO REBUILD

## Seeking Sound Wisdom

August 16, 2020 | Ron Thompson

### ● Beware Of TEMPTATIONS

*One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you — by night they are coming to kill you." But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me. Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophet Noadiah and how she and the rest of the prophets have been trying to intimidate me. So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. **NEHEMIAH 6:10-16 NIV***

## 3 CHARACTERISTICS OF WISE PEOPLE

### ● Compelling PURPOSE

*"I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" **NEHEMIAH 6:3B NIV***

### ● Clear PERSPECTIVE

*But they were scheming to harm me. **NEHEMIAH 6:2B NIV**  
They were all trying to frighten us... **NEHEMIAH 6:9A NIV**  
I realized that God had not sent him... **NEHEMIAH 6:12A NIV***

### ● Continual PRAYER

*...I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands." **NEHEMIAH 6:9B NIV***

**NEXT WEEK:  
Standing On Truth**

### ● Beware Of DISTRACTIONS

*When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it — though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates — Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. **NEHEMIAH 6:1-4 NIV***

### ● Beware Of ACCUSATIONS

*Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter in which was written: "It is reported among the nations — and Geshem says it is true — that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: 'There is a king in Judah!' Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us meet together." I sent him this reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head." They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands." **NEHEMIAH 6:5-9 NIV***



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

**LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to “rise up” and seek God’s wisdom.**

**Opening Prayer:** Let’s invite God to meet with us.

SHARE life:

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When is a time you faced uncertainty and really needed wise advice? Who did you turn to? What advice did you receive? Was it helpful?

STRENGTHEN faith:

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1. Sunday’s message was about seeking sound wisdom. What stood out in the message? What is a key point that stuck with you?
2. Read Nehemiah 6:1-10. Once again Nehemiah and God’s people were being threatened and intimidated. Lies and uncertainty made the situation unclear. How do you think Nehemiah was able to see through the deception?

3. Let’s look at the following verses, Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 15:22; and Proverbs 24:6. What do they teach us about how to manage difficult decisions?
4. Let’s look at some other verses having to do with seeking wisdom: James 1:5; Proverbs 1:7; and Proverbs 19:20. Do you find it easy to seek other’s advice and counsel, or is that difficult for you? Why do you think that is?

SERVE others:

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Let’s read the story in 2 Chronicles 10:1-19. What went wrong here? How can we help those who struggle with accepting wise advice?

SPREAD hope:

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Romans 1:21-23 reminds us that the world without God lacks God’s wisdom and guidance. How do we as Christians share God’s wisdom in a loving way with those who are blind to truth?

**PRAYER:** What is a challenge you are facing this week? How can we pray and support you?

**August 16, 2020**



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