



## Sermon Series Notes

### "Staying Alert Against The Enemy" (Nehemiah 4:1-9)

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#### I. DON'T ANSWER INSULT WITH INSULT (vv.1-6)

\* What was it that got the enemy so worked up? (v.6)

\* Matt.10: 34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35 For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--

36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;

\* See I Peter 2:23; 3: 9-12

\* Keep on working, and don't get caught up in a verbal (or physical) battle with the enemy.

\* II Cor.10: 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

\* I Peter 4: 4 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.

\* I am so proud of my children Tanner's recent experience at UCF with girls trying to lure him to the bar he just stayed focused .

#### II. PRAY

\* Eight times we find it recorded that Nehemiah went to the Lord in prayer.

\* They prayed instead of responding to the insults and criticism

\* See Rom.12:17-21; David and Nabal (I Sam.25)

\* Acts 4: 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

\* Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given us

\* Eph.6: 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

\* II Kings 6: 17 And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

\* Eph.1: 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

\* Luke 22: 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

\* Daniel 6: 10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

\* Prayer is work

- Col.4: 12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

- 75. agonizomai, ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee; from G73; to struggle, lit. (to compete for a prize), fig. (to contend with an adversary), or gen. (to endeavor to accomplish something):--fight, labor fervently, strive.

\* Prayer requires self-control

- I Peter 4: 7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.

### III. POST A GUARD

\* Matt.26: 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me" 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter.

41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

- \* Whose guarding your life against the enemy?
  - Do we have people praying for us?

\* These people were united, and they were submitted to the leadership God had placed over them.

\* Heb.13: 17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

\* Posting a guard means that the enemy would not be able to take them by surprise. As I thought about this, I realized that failing in the first two points will inevitably mean we will at some point be taken by surprise.

- \* What did Peter do in the Garden of Gethsemane?

- Matt.26: 51 With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.

- Gal.5: 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

- \* What had Peter most recently failed in before taking off Malchus' ear?

- Matt.26: 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

\* Was Peter surprised when he found himself fleeing for his life and then warming himself at the enemy's fire?

- Mark 14: 30 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today--yes, tonight--before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times."

31 But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

## CONCLUSION

\* Don't repay evil with evil, or insult with insult. Keep your focus on your responsibility/work for the Lord. Pray about everything, especially when the enemy comes against you. And stay alert (keep watch), making certain you remain submitted to the authorities that God has placed in your life.

- \* Psalm 141: 3 Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.