



Sermon Series Notes

"Schemes of the Enemy" (Nehemiah 6)

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I. THE TEXT

v.10 He would have been hiding in a place that was out of the will of God, not only because he would be giving in to fear, but because he would be violating the Word of God that restricted this area to priests only.

- * The place of safety is not physical, but spiritual

- * It is quite comforting to know that no one can harm you without God's permission if you are in the center of His will.

v.11 Nehemiah realizes that being in the center of God's will does not mean that he is immune from danger or harm. It only means that he is willing to face danger or harm if it is in keeping with God's will. Nehemiah shows his spiritual stamina and integrity here. He will not run. He will not hide!

- * John 11:9-10 (context)

- * It is a requirement of a man or woman of God that they not give in to fear.

vv.15-16 I am so thankful that I get to be a part of a work that is accomplished only because it is being done with the help of God. This way God alone gets the glory, and this testimony is recognized by all who hear.

II. LESSONS

A. Schemes Of The Enemy

1. Distraction

- * The enemy comes repeatedly and he will do us as well!

- * Nehemiah did not change his answer, unlike Balaam (see Num.22).

* II Tim.4: 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

* Luke 10: 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.

* Luke 8: 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

* Luke 14: 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

2. Intimidation/Fear

* Prov.29: 25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

* v.10 This is a fellow Jew, someone you would think could be trusted. He is also a shut in, either very old or with some kind of infirmity. This would make him seem trustworthy even more.

* The enemy plants Shemaiah in this strategic place to try and get Nehemiah to give in to fear. And he will do the same with us. The person could be a close friend, someone in "the ministry" (Shemaiah was a false prophet), your own mom or dad

* See Matthew 16:21-24

* I Samuel 13; 17 (David & Goliath)

* John 7: 12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people."

13 But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews.

* John 12: 42 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;

43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

* John 7: 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked,

51 "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?"

52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

3. Unsubstantiated Accusation

* We're not talking here about things you have done, but rather things you have been accused of that are not true.

* Read from Redpath on Nehemiah, p.119

* Joel Osteen and the story about the limo company that wanted to give poor people a ride to church

* In the old warehouse during a work day, a church leader saying "This is your little kingdom isn't it?" That hurt me deeply

* The Range Rover?

- Artist rendering before we moved showing nice cars it was prophetic!

4. Infiltration/Division

* This is one of the greatest schemes of the enemy!

* See Nehemiah 3:4; One of Nehemiah's men had married Tobiah's daughter!

* v.19 They have been snowed by Tobiah, just like people were snowed by Korah

* Num.16: 41 The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. "You have killed the Lord's people," they said.

B. Nehemiah's Success Against The Enemy

1. He did not allow himself to become distracted

2. He did not run or hide/give in to intimidation & fear

3. He prayed

4. He did not retaliate, but rather left the enemy in the hands of the Lord (v.14).

5. He repeated the above four points (v.19)

- The enemy kept on coming, and he kept resisting

CONCLUSION

* Do you ever get tired of resisting the enemy? That is the time to pray, and that is the time it is hardest to pray (because you're tired).

* Have you perhaps become distracted? What is it that has distracted you? Who is it that has distracted you?

* Have you given in to intimidation/fear? Then repent and renew your courage!