

19 July

TOPIC: Nehemiah Chapter 6



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a situation where you needed discernment?
2. What were the names of the two people who invited Nehemiah to the plain of Ono in v.2? (**Sanballat and Geshem**).
3. What was Nehemiah's answer to their invitation? (**No, I am doing a great work – see v.3**).
4. What are the three false accusations against Nehemiah? (**The Jews plan to rebel; that you may be their king; you have appointed prophets**).



Let's go deeper

5. How did Nehemiah respond to these accusations? (**Nehemiah said; "you invent them in your own heart." – see verse 8**).
6. What was the self-appointed prophets name in v.10? (**Shemaiah**).
7. Who hired him to prophesy falsely against Nehemiah? (**Tobiah and Sanballat – see verse 12**).
8. According to verse 15, in how many days were walls completed? (**Fifty-two days**).



Let's apply this

9. What can we learn from Nehemiah's response to the three-fold attack of false friendship; false accusations and false fear?

1. "Come down to the plain of Ono," they said to Nehemiah, but Nehemiah said; no, I am doing a great work. Nehemiah remained focused on God's work.
2. They accused Nehemiah, but he didn't defend Himself. He spoke the truth and trusted in God.
3. A false prophet offered Nehemiah an easy way out, but it was a way of fear and disobedience. Nehemiah would have none of it.

How would you respond to false friendship; false accusations and false fear?

SUMMARY:

Read: Nehemiah 6:1 – 19; Hebrews 5:12 – 14 and 1 Corinthians 12:10.

- **The book of Nehemiah chapter 6:**

v.1 – 4; The false friendship of the enemy.

Nehemiah was equipped with discernment. Discernment is the ability to judge matters according to God's view of them, and not according to their outward appearance. How can we develop discernment?

If you want to see things as God sees them, get to know His Word.

Discernment comes through spiritual maturity; Hebrews 5:12 – 14 says that discernment is something spiritual babies don't have. Discernment can be given as a gift from the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12:10). Discernment gave Nehemiah focus.

v.5 – 9; The false accusation of the enemy.

Verse 6, gives us the false accusations. Nehemiah replied by calmly and straightforwardly telling Sanballat that he was a liar, and carried on with the work.

Nehemiah had the discernment to see the strategy was all about fear, and he wouldn't give into it. We must do what Nehemiah did – pray for God's strength, His power in our lives.

v.10 – 14; The false fear of the enemy's religion.

This man Shemaiah was said to be a prophet, but he was not. Shemaiah offered Nehemiah a safe place in the temple. Shemaiah tried to create fear in Nehemiah and tried to get him to disobey God based on this fear. Only priests were allowed in the temple and Nehemiah was not a priest. He would have disobeyed God if he had done what Shemaiah said.

v.15 – 16; The wall is completed in 52 days.

At the beginning, when he saw the need, Nehemiah prayed for four months. But the work itself took less than two months. Nehemiah spent more time in prayer than they needed to work to do the job. This shows the spiritual battle was actually greater than the material battle.

v.17 – 19; The work is finished despite some friends of the enemy Tobiah.

Tobiah was the man who had opposed the rebuilding work with Sanballat. Nehemiah wrote no more about this situation. He wasn't going to demand the nobles change their minds about Tobiah; but he wasn't going to deny what he knew to be true about Tobiah either. He seems willing to let it go and let God take care of it.

Nehemiah had a work to do, and that work was not really going out to attack people like Tobiah. He could leave the Tobiahs alone, as long as they weren't attacking the work of God.