

Having Singlemindedness: Standing Firm In Christ:

Nehemiah 6

1. Discernment: Environments & Contexts vs. 1-4

Although officials over other Persian provinces were requesting to have a meeting with Nehemiah 30 miles northwest of Jerusalem, Nehemiah refused as he understood the meeting had no benefit for God's mission, and realized their intentions were to bring him harm.

God's Word challenges us to remain aware of the devil's tactics (2 Corinthians 2:11), as with God's provision of the needed discernment, the devil will not outwit the church.

Question:

- What are the kind of environments or situations that I should avoid, as they may harm my witness as being a leader for Christ?
- What are the various tactics that the devil tends to use?

2. Discernment: Attempt to Discredit vs. 6-14; 17-19

Although these officials attempted to discredit Nehemiah through making public lies about Nehemiah's motives, Shemaiah trying to persuade him to rebel against God, and others within the Israelite community secretly united with the opposition in the attempt to discredit him, Nehemiah prayerfully looked to God for strength and wisely responds to each attempt.

When the church lives for the Lord, attempts to discredit the church may take place (Acts 4:1-22; 16:19-21), but when we prayerfully depend on God for wisdom and strength, we will wisely know when to stay quiet, when it is necessary to speak up (Proverbs 26:4-5), and will have the discernment to know who is speaking truth (1 John 4:1-3).

Questions:

- The opposition tried to discredit Nehemiah so that his relationship with the king, with God, and with the Israelite Community may be ruined. When someone attempts to discredit us, how should we respond? What should we avoid doing? What should our focus be?

3. Discernment: Sustaining Focus vs. 15-16

With Nehemiah standing firm in his convictions of not compromising his faith, trusting in God's promises, and prayerfully depending on Him, God's plan prevailed.

Mission accomplished: The reconstruction of the walls was completed in fifty-two days.

As we live by God's grace, God empowers us to not compromise our faith, continue to place our trust in His promises while prayerfully depending on Him, as the Lord will empower the mission He has given us; to make mature multiplying disciples.

Questions:

- What can distract us from living a life of single mindedness, keeping our focus on Christ?