

LET'S FINISH STRONG

Nehemiah 6:1-16

Make a Difference Week 4

*"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." - Nehemiah 6:1*

THE CLOSER YOU GET TO DOING WHAT GOD WANTS DONE, THE HARDER YOUR ENEMY WILL FIGHT TO STOP YOU.

YOUR ENEMY'S STRATEGY

1) YOUR ENEMY WILL TRY TO DISTRACT YOU.

*"Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono..." - Nehemiah 6:2*

- I'M NOT COMING DOWN.

*"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?" - Nehemiah 6:2-3*

2) YOUR ENEMY WILL TRY TO DISCREDIT YOU.

- BY SPREADING RUMORS.

*"Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter 6 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... Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us confer together." - Nehemiah 6:5-6, 7b*

- BY TEMPTING YOU TO COMPROMISE.

*"(Shemaiah) 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."...12 I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. 13 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." - Nehemiah 6:10, 12-13*

- I'M NOT GIVING UP.

*"But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should one like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" - Nehemiah 6:11*

*"So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 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 6:15-16*

### Digging Deeper & Life Application

1. What could distract you from doing the most important thing God wants you to do?
2. How is the enemy trying to tempt you in order to discredit your integrity?
3. What have you learned the most from this series, and what are you going to do about it?