

Nehemiah 6:1-19

**Staying on Course Despite
Distraction and Deception**

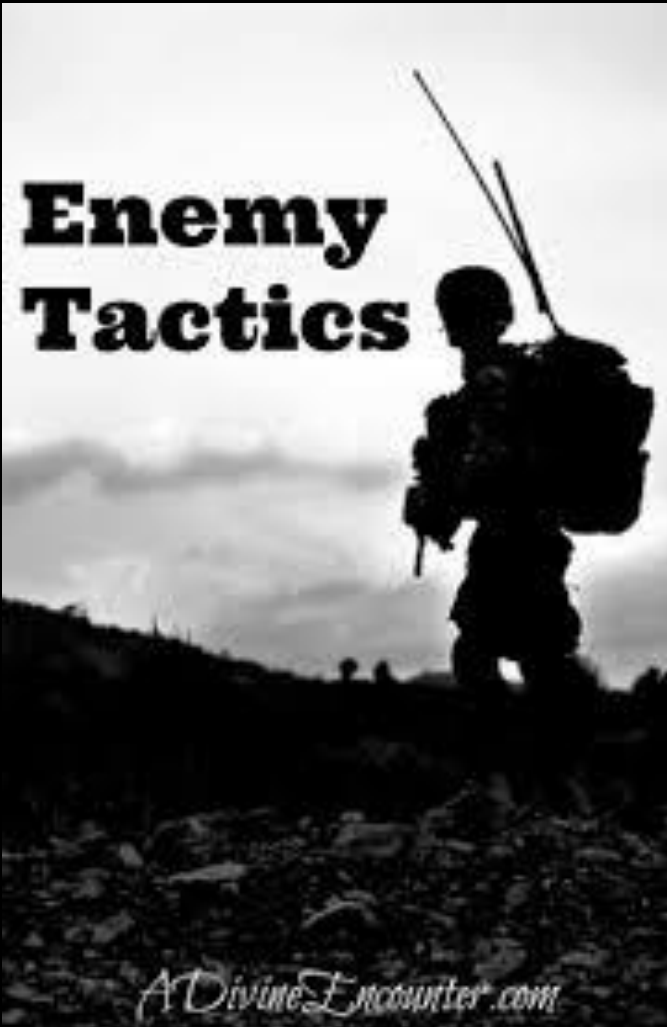
Rebuilding Amidst Internal Conflict



Confronting Selfishness and Greed

Nehemiah 5:1-13

Tactics Enemy Uses To Keep God's People From Completing Their Mission Nehemiah 4,5,6



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|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Ridicule | 4:1-6 |
| 2. Violence | 4:7-9 |
| 3. Discouragement | 4:10 |
| 4. Fear | 4:11-23 |
| 5. Selfishness/Greed | 5:1-13 |

Nehemiah 6 (ESV)

NEHEMIAH

Chapter 6



Bodily Harm Through Social Deception



Nehemiah 6:2-4

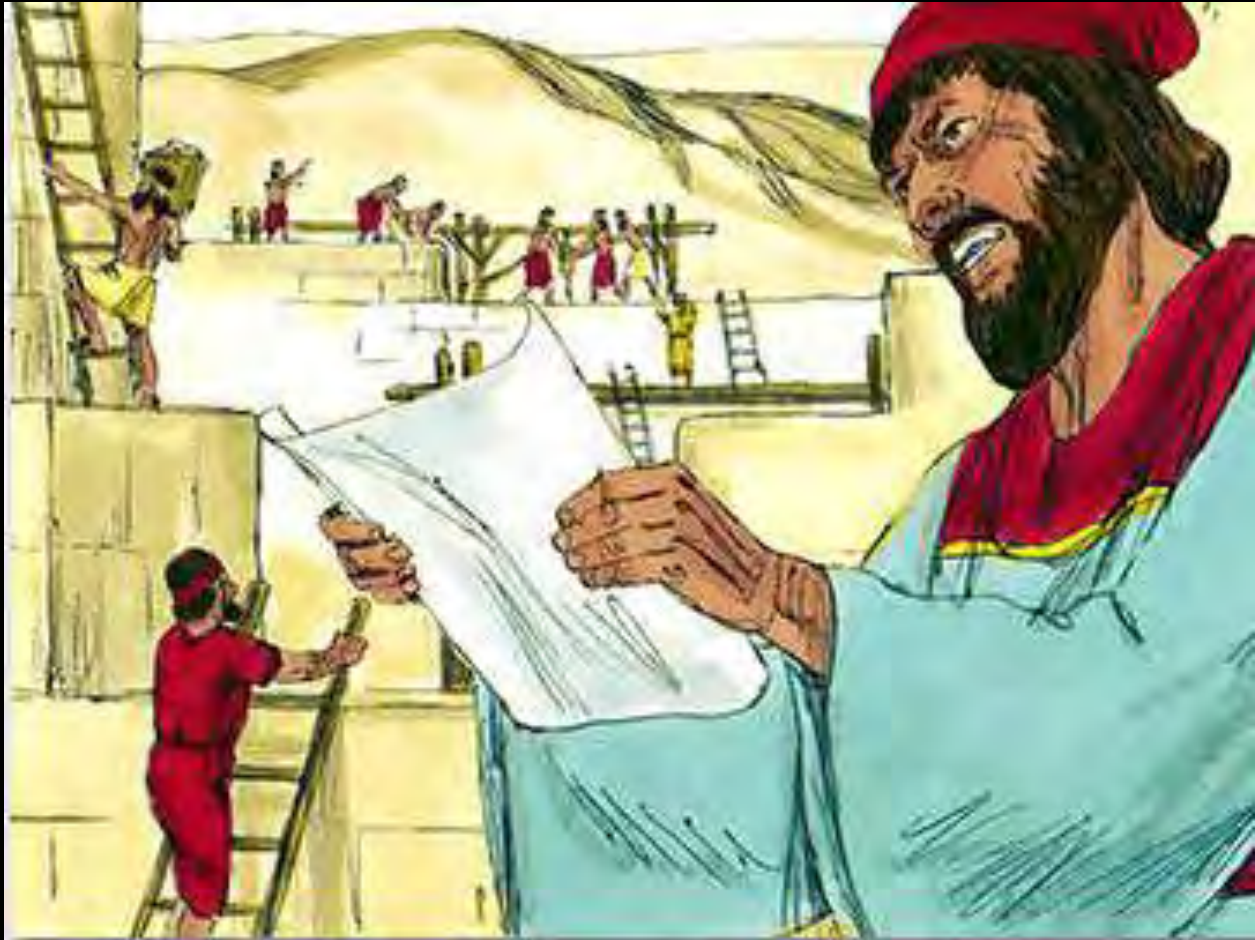
- The enemies offered a meeting
- Ono Valley was a long way (30 miles) from Jerusalem
- Purpose was certainly to kidnap or assassinate Nehemiah for without Nehemiah's leadership, the work of rebuilding would stop
- Nehemiah responded by saying "No".

"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?" - Nehemiah 6:3



Character Assassination Through Slander

Nehemiah 6:5-9



- The enemies then resorted to using false report to accuse Nehemiah wanting to become a king.
- This is character assassination using political means which could result in a death sentence.
- Nehemiah denied it outrightly stating that it was fake news.
- He prayed.

Religious Violation through False Prophecy



Nehemiah 6:10-14

- Using scare tactics to draw Nehemiah away from his mission
- Suggested that Nehemiah to hide in the temple.
- Against the the Law of Moses for a lay person to go inside the Temple (the Holy Place)
- Call on God.

Spiritual Discernment

Spiritual Discernment is the action or leading of the Holy Spirit to provide insight to judge matters according to God's view of them, and not according to their outward appearance. It involves both supernatural gift and developed skill.

Spiritual Discernment

1. Discernment comes from knowing the Word of God.

Hebrews 5:13-14

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil

Spiritual Discernment

2. Discernment comes from prayer.

Philippians 1:9-10

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

Focused & Determined

1. He was determined to hear from God and his ears were closed to everyone else.
2. He was determined not to allow fear to settle in his heart.
3. He was determined not to get distracted or diverted from the thing that God had called him to do.
4. He was determined to stay on course no matter what happened and to finish what he had started.

Race of the Century



John
Landy



Roger
Bannister

“If I had kept my eyes on the finished line and not looked back, I would have won!”



“While Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt for looking back, I am the only one ever turned into bronze for looking back.”

**Don’t look back!
Keep Your Eyes on the
Finished Line!**

Discussion Questions

- What are some common lies that trip up Christians in their spiritual life and keep them from progressing in the work God has called them to? What lies does Satan commonly use to trip you up?
- Why does the enemy use slander in the lives of believers? Have you experienced slander or gossip? How did you handle the situation?
- How can we develop discernment like Nehemiah so we won't be deceived by the enemy and also so we can better minister to others?