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December 3 & 4, 2005
Winning the War over Fear
Nehemiah 6

Nehemiah has received a vision from God, prayed much about it, had the courage to communicate it to others, begun to act on that vision, experienced some resistance from local residents around Jerusalem, and now, begins to experience more resistance specifically focused toward him. If you intend to live a Nehemiah-like life, and we all as believers should, there is plenty of lessons for us in the way he responded to negative forces around him.

Four onslaughts and Four Nehemiah Responses

1. Distract him from his focus, Neh. 6:3. A desire to move him away from the work.
Nehemiah's response: Stay the course. Have a Holy Resolve.
2. Questioning his motives, Neh. 6:5-7. Your main critics will interpret your actions in light of how they would have worked this out.
Nehemiah's response: Counter with the Truth
3. Weaken his resolve, Neh. 6:9.
Nehemiah's response: Seek God's strength, get on your knees.
4. Compromise his integrity, Neh. 6:10-13. Only priests are allowed inside the Temple, with the exception of a fleeing fugitive. To go into the Temple would be to violate the priesthood or admit yourself to be a fugitive. They sought to have Nehemiah entrap himself.
Nehemiah's response: Stay within the lines. Keep your spiritual boundaries.

Ultimate result of his steadfastness? The wall was finished, and the enemies received all that they had sought to dole out to Nehemiah.

Personal Application:

- Noting Nehemiah's situation, what was strikingly similar to an experience you have faced? How did you handle your experience?
- Which one of the above four points seems to be the most often targeted place for your enemies in your life?
- What does it take for us as a Life Group or us as a church body to keep doing the right things in response to these four challenges?