

It Takes True Grit - Our Mission part 6

Nehemiah 6

“They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.” Nehemiah 6:9

What keeps us going when the enemy is on the prowl?

1. When the enemy is out to destroy, commit to being a person of peace.

“So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me,³ so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?”

⁴Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply.” v 2-4

2. When the enemy is out to deceive others, be person of truth.

“The fifth time, Sanballat’s servant came with an open letter in his hand,⁶ and this is what it said:

“There is a rumour among ... and Geshem tells me it is true, that you ... are planning to rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king.⁷ He also reports ... “You can be very sure that this report will get back to the king, so I suggest that you come and talk it over with me.”

⁸I replied, “There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing.” v 5-8

“During those fifty-two days, many letters went back and forth between Tobiah and the nobles of Judah.¹⁸ For many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him because his father-in-law was Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan was married to the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah.¹⁹ They kept telling me about Tobiah’s good deeds, and then they told him everything I said. And Tobiah kept sending threatening letters to intimidate me.” v 17-19

3. When the enemy is seeking to discourage you and disrupt, keep moving forward in faith.

“They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.” Nehemiah 6:9

4. When the enemy is trying to discredit your reputation, keep walking in the way of righteousness.

“He said, “Let us meet together inside the Temple of God and bolt the doors shut. Your enemies are coming to kill you tonight.”

¹¹But I replied, “Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won’t do it!”¹²I realized that God had not spoken to him, but that he had uttered this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.¹³ They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me.” v 10-13

5. When God grants you success, be even more prayerful and watchful.

“So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun.¹⁶ When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.” v 15-16

“And Tobiah kept sending threatening letters to intimidate me.” v 19

“But now O God, strengthen my hands .” v9b (ESV)

“Remember, O my God, all the evil things that Tobiah and Sanballat have done.” v 14

“When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.” Luke 4:9

*“A final word: **Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.**¹¹ Put on all of God’s armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

*¹³Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armour so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the **belt of truth** and the body **armour of God’s righteousness.***

*¹⁵For shoes, **put on the peace** that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the **shield of faith** to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.¹⁷ Put on **salvation as your helmet**, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God.***

*¹⁸**Pray in the Spirit at all times** and on every occasion. **Stay alert** and **be persistent in your prayers** for all believers everywhere.” Eph 6:10-17*