

Group/Individual Study

Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew

Passages: Nehemiah 6:1-16, 1 Peter 5:8, James 4:7

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 2/18

1. Read Nehemiah 6:1-16. The rebuilding of the wall has been resisted at every turn by Jerusalem's enemies. Earlier in the book the attacks were aimed at discouraging the people, but in Chapter 6 the attacks focus personally on Nehemiah. Name all the types of attack you see in these verses. How many of these types of attack have you experienced when you were trying to live for God?
2. Verses 1-4 show Nehemiah staying focused on God's agenda. Are there "God things" you feel called to in your life right now, that you have to protect by saying "no" to things that would otherwise soak up your time and energy? How hard or easy is that for you to do?
3. In verses 5-9 Nehemiah's motives are questioned, but he goes to God in prayer over it and is able to "dust off" from these unwarranted attacks. Have you ever experienced being spoken ill of in ways that made it hard to stay on your God-given path? How can you "turn up the volume" of what God says about you and turn down the volume of what people say?
4. God's enemies first tried to *distract* Nehemiah (v1-4), then they *questioned his motives* (v5-9), then they tried to use fear to stop him by threatening him with death (v10-13). Which of these is hardest for you to deal with when God calls you to do something?
 - Distraction - too busy with other things in life to focus on God's agenda (v1-4)
 - Opinions of others - "what will people think/say?" (v5-9)
 - Fear - "what bad or scary things could happen if I follow God in this?" (v10-13)
5. God's people in Jerusalem had been living with their walls in rubble for 80 years. When Nehemiah started rebuilding, the wall was finished in 52 days. What "rubble" have you settled for that you think God would like to change? What do you see in Nehemiah's story that might help you rebuild?
6. Nehemiah's most defining habit in this book was that he took all that concerned him to God in prayer -- again, and again, and again. How do you think that helped him live into God's agenda? How have you experienced prayer helping you stay on track?