

# NEHEMIAH

BUILDING A CITY  
WITHIN THE CITY

## Week 9 The Enemy's Schemes

Read Nehemiah 6:1-14 for an overview of the passage.

### Context

In the middle of accomplishing the work God sent Nehemiah to do, he begins to be attacked by his enemies. As we read this text, let us remember, the enemy of the Church is Satan, not the people of the world. Our task is to preach the good news of salvation to non-believers, and Satan is actively working to thwart our efforts.

### Deception

Reread Nehemiah 6:1-4. Our enemy is a deceiver (John 8:4, Gen 3:4, 2 Cor 11:3) always trying to distract us from the work of preaching the good news of Jesus Christ.

- What tricks of deception are being employed here?
- How does Nehemiah sniff it out, i.e. how did he decide this was a set up?
- How did Nehemiah's understanding of purpose protect him from being deceived?
- What is Nehemiah's response to the deception?
- What deceptions are keeping you from God's work and a deeper relationship with Jesus?
- How will you respond to this deception?

### Accusation

Reread Nehemiah 6:5-9. Our enemy is an accuser (Rev 12:10, Job 1) hoping to break our resolve out of fear of our reputation or standing before God. So let us remember that we have been cleansed of our sin by the blood of Christ (Rev 12:11) making these accusations empty and false.

- What is the accusation against Nehemiah?
- What is the intent of the accusation? i.e. What does his enemy hope to gain?
- How does Nehemiah respond to the accusation?
- What accusations and lies are you believing that are stifling your relationship with Jesus?
- How will you respond to these accusations?

### Temptation

Reread Nehemiah 6:5-9. Our enemy is a tempter (1 Thess. 3:5, Matt. 4:1-11) giving us every opportunity to seek comfort and escape from the hard work of the Gospel.

- What is the temptation for Nehemiah? How is this similar to Mat 4:8?
- How does Nehemiah respond to the temptation? How does Jesus?
- How are you being tempted to comfort or short cuts to joy in your walk with God?
- The promise is comfort and joy but what is the reality of giving in to temptation?
- What tools do you have to resist temptation?
- How will you resist the temptations in your life today?

### Reflection and Prayer

Reflect on the attributes of God and the elements of the Gospel you see in this passage. How do your thoughts and actions testify to the truth you see in these Scriptures? Pray that this scripture would transform your life and renew your mind.