

We All Have Great Works of God to Complete

Nehemiah 6:1-14

Deny _____.

¹Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), ²Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono."

But they intended to do me harm. ³And I sent messengers to them, saying, "**I am doing a great work** and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" ⁴And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

Defy _____.

⁵In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. ⁶In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king. ⁷And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together."

⁸Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." ⁹For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

Develop _____.

¹⁰Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night."

¹¹But I said, "Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in." ¹²And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me a bad name in order to taunt me. ¹⁴Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid. (ESV)



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July 17, 2022

Open: Share about a time in your life when you wanted to quit something but didn't.

Read & Discuss: Nehemiah 6:1-4

1. In verse 2 we're told that Sanballat and Geshem tried to pull Nehemiah away from his work. What are some factors or forces that tend to pull you away from godly pursuits or endeavors? How would following these pulls end up doing us "harm" (v. 2)?
2. Nehemiah's response to their invitation was that he was "doing a great work" and could not stop (v. 3). What are some things God has called His people (or you specifically) to do that you would consider to be "great works"? (*Perhaps consider verses like Matt. 6:33; 28:19, 1 Cor. 14:12; Phil. 2:12.*) What helps you to remember the high value of these pursuits?

Read & Discuss: Nehemiah 6:5-9

3. Verses 5-7 tell us Sanballat spread false accusations against Nehemiah. How might Nehemiah have felt at this point? How have you seen people attempt to discredit Christians or derail their godly pursuits using slander? Has this ever happened to you? How did you respond?
4. How would you describe Nehemiah's response to these false reports? What are some unhelpful ways we could respond when such things happen to us? What can we learn from Nehemiah about how to pray in such situations (v. 9)?

Read & Discuss: Nehemiah 6:10-14

5. In verses 10-11, Nehemiah tells how a supposed prophet encouraged him to do something that sounded good and wise but that was actually a violation of God's Law. Have you ever been encouraged by others to make subtle compromises with the Word of God? Explain.
6. Are there other ways not yet mentioned through which you've felt pressure to abandon good, important works or godly pursuits? What have you found to be of help to you in such times?

Apply: Are there specific situations in which you're currently experiencing pressure or temptation to give up or give in? What do you see in Nehemiah's example that might be of help to you?

Pray: Pray for each other that God will grant us a deep conviction regarding the value of the pursuits to which He called us and also supply us the perseverance to see those endeavors through.

Nehemiah 6:1-4

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Nehemiah 6:10-14

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