

Nehemiah 6:1-14

How To Face Opposition (4)

Nehemiah had been dealing with financial crises, public unrest, greed, bad debts and greed. All of these were threatening the relationships within the city of Jerusalem. Through all of these things, Nehemiah remained a man of prayer, asking God to rule over his decisions. Yet, in the midst of great difficulty, God is always up to something and always up to something _____.

Believers should always anticipate and prepare for _____. The devil roams about seeking whom he may devour, attempting to do what he can to hurt and abuse. Nehemiah had nemeses that we know by now: Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem. These three had internal connections in the city and used them to cause problems. They wanted to keep Jerusalem from gaining power, something they'd do if they completed the walls and gate. These three formed an alliance as frequently occurs in history. It also is common that when the goal of the alliance is reached, that alliance fails.

I. The Opposition wanted to _____ Nehemiah.

The alliance asked Nehemiah to join them for a summit some _____ miles away from Jerusalem. You'd think if they truly wanted to a summit, they would have met just outside the walls. A vain man might have taken this opportunity to garner _____ support, even make a bigger name for himself. Thankfully, Nehemiah

_____ this attempt. He believed they intended to _____. They came _____ to ask him to meet but his response was the same: I am doing a _____ and cannot come _____. Why should I leave it and _____? The alliance was attempting to get Nehemiah to _____ on the wall and knew their attempt was evil.

There are churches across our country that are busy, very busy, doing many things but can they say we are doing a _____? How would you classify such a work?

James M. Boice says that leaders have to know when to say _____.

II. The Opposition wanted to _____ Nehemiah.

In verses 5-9 the alliance attempts to _____ Nehemiah. The three compose an open letter filled with _____. There was some _____ in the letter. Again, thankfully, Nehemiah _____ this attempt and says "_____." Nehemiah knew the alliance was trying to embed these lies into the minds of the people and hope they'd quit from _____. They wanted to stop the work. These men were trying to bully, intimidate Nehemiah. It was unsuccessful. Nehemiah approached this as he did with everything: _____.

III. The Opposition wanted to _____ Nehemiah.

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The next opposition came from _____ the walls. Nehemiah visited the home of a priest, _____. Nothing else is known about this priest, except what is written here. This priest quickly attempts to intimidate Nehemiah with words to cause him to _____. He uses the words _____ twice in an attempt to do so. He wanted Nehemiah to rush into the _____ to avoid the so called death threat. If he did this, it would immediately _____ him before the _____. Nehemiah also understood that if he did this, he would appear _____ and give a sure sign of _____. He concluded that Shemaiah was _____ a man of God and, in fact, had been _____ by the alliance. Additionally, a _____ named Noadiah was part of this plot by the alliance. Their intent was to discredit Nehemiah before the people.

These things were nothing but _____ on Nehemiah, something common even today. Thankfully, Nehemiah realized these religious leaders were frauds. One reason why was that Shemaiah told Nehemiah to rush into the _____, something _____ by Scripture.

Nota bene: If someone tells you to do something contrary to the Word of God, that person is a _____. They are most definitely not speaking for God.

Nehemiah closes this section by praying that Jehovah _____ what these wicked people had done.

What do you think qualifies as a great work for God and how would you find out?

Do you think you are engaged in a great work for God?

If you're not engaged in a great work, then consider getting busy in one.