

## THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

### "Tactics to Heed" Nehemiah 6:1-19

#### Introduction

1. Here is a record of repeated attempts to disrupt the work of God. The attacks are from without. The previous chapter outlined internal difficulties. It will always be the same: fightings and fears within without, BUT GOD!
2. The outstanding character of Nehemiah is seen in this instance more than ever. He is a leader in Israel. He will not give up!
3. In each instance of the tactics employed, there are: a proposal, a reply by Nehemiah, and an explanation for his stand:-

#### 1. NEHEMIAH'S POSITION

##### a. The proposal. v.2

The enemies of Israel proposed a meeting with Nehemiah in a village of the plain of Ono. The verb "meet" means to "be known." The village may actually be named for the Hebrew is Cephirim (cf. Josh. 9:17). In this case, the place would be in the territory of Benjamin (Josh. 18:26). This is an oft-repeated tactic of the enemy: "come, let's talk!"

##### b. The answer. v.3

Three basic statements are made: 1) I am doing a great work. Nehemiah had no fear of pride to state he was being used of God! 2) I will not come down to you. He would not respond to an invitation of this sort. 3) I will not allow the work to cease. He felt that his presence was required for successful completion of an assigned task! Such loyalty to a call!

##### c. The reason. v.2

Nehemiah did not throw reason to the winds. He knew that the enemy had one end in view: evil. Although the call to meet was offered four times (v.4), Nehemiah was intransigent. His decision was unmoved!

#### 2. NEHEMIAH'S PERSON

##### a. The proposal. vv.6,7

A fifth attempt to trip Nehemiah is advanced (v.5). This time it is that Nehemiah get some counsel! Like

today: people want "counsel," but they don't want "regeneration!" This all came in the form of an open letter which made some critical character assassinations: 1) You and Jews rebel. 2) You build the wall. 3) You want to be king. 4) You appoint prophets to speak for yourself. The strong emphasis on the personal pronoun "you" is at the core of the accusation. The enemy proposed "conciliation" first; now he turns to "scandal."

b. The answer. v.8

Nehemiah could have given an extended defense of his person. This he did not choose to do, at least as far as the record goes. He merely made a decisive and categorical denial of the charges: 1) no such thing as you say. 2) You invent the charges in your own heart. If tact were required, Nehemiah didn't use it.

c. The reason. v.9

Three goals are expressed here: 1) Make Nehemiah afraid. 2) Weaken Israel hands in the work. 3) Prohibit the work from being completed. Nehemiah knew the intent of the charges. God's work was to be stopped. Brethren, this is always the goal of the enemy: get the work of God to stop! Do this at any cost, even the slaughter of a man's character!

3. NEHEMIAH'S PRACTICE

a. The proposal.

Now comes the "closed door" strategy. Let's have a private conference "in the house of God" (as if the place would make "holy" and "unholy alliance"). Secret diplomacy may be for the moderns, but not for God's man who has a job to do in public building of walls!

b. The answer.

Nehemiah gives a forthright detailed reply: 1) My kind of man doesn't run. 2) I will not harbor myself in the temple for refuge (this would admit guilt). 3) I will not go (cf. v.3).

c. The reason.

Four items are listed here as the objective of the proposal: 1) Make Nehemiah fearful. 2) Make Nehemiah sin. 3) Get an evil report of Nehemiah. 4) Bring reproach on Nehemiah.

Conclusion Like a true servant of God, Nehemiah stood his ground and left the judgment of his enemies to God. (vv.9, 14). An insistence on doing God's will at any cost is worth it. Hallelujah!