

Handling Intimidation to Vision

"When all our enemies heard this, all the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence, for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God." Nehemiah 6:16

Text: Nehemiah 6-7

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Fighting the Enemy, Handling Hardship

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Supplemental Texts: See below

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Pushing through intimidation will require that you...

- 1) **Seek strength through prayer (vs. 1-9)**
 - A. Another prayer of Nehemiah that shows his constant reliance on God.
 - B. We must continue to pray through any intimidating factors that would try to keep us from fulfilling God's will.

- 2) **Stand your ground (10-11)**
 - A. Nehemiah stood firm and did not cave into any threats to his own life.
 - B. Though Satan has come to steal, kill, and to destroy (John 10:10), the Bible reminds you that "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in this world." (1 John 4:4)

- 3) **Sense the reality of the situation through spiritual discernment (12-14)**
 - A. Nehemiah saw and understood that God had not sent Shemaiah. God gave Nehemiah discernment.
 - B. God will also give you discernment as you seek to fulfill His will.

- 4) **See the victory that God provides (15-18, Chapter 7)**
 - A. The people were able to rebuild the wall in 52 days. This led to the intimidation shifting away from the people of Judah to the surrounding nations.
 - B. God will always lead you to victory as we follow His direction.

Questions for Application

- 1) When have you ever felt intimidated by someone, and how did it make you feel?
- 2) What motivated Sanballat and his associates to summon Nehemiah? (6:1-2)
- 3) How did Nehemiah respond to Sanballat's invitation? (6:3)
- 4) What was different about the fifth time Sanballat sent the message to Nehemiah? (6:5-7)
- 5) How did Nehemiah respond to Sanballat's accusations? (6:8)
- 6) What did Nehemiah's opponents assume would be the result of their threats? (6:9)
- 7) From where did Nehemiah receive his strength to continue the work? (6:9)
- 8) What advice did Shemaiah give to Nehemiah? (6:10)
- 9) What did Nehemiah think of Shemaiah's advice? (6:11)
- 10) What insight did the Lord give to Nehemiah regarding Shemaiah's advice? (6:12)
- 11) What caused Shemaiah to prophesy against Nehemiah? (6:12-13)
- 12) Why didn't Nehemiah back down as his opponents wanted? (6:12-13)
- 13) Why did Nehemiah pray? (6:14)
- 14) What basic principles did Nehemiah follow when he faced opposition?
- 15) What sin did Nehemiah want to avoid?
- 16) What opposition do you face in your Christian walk?
- 17) How can we discern insincerity or dishonesty when we see it?
- 18) From what work do you think Satan wants to distract you?
- 19) What temptations threaten to distract you from doing what is right?
- 20) How can you prevent yourself from being distracted from the work God has given you?
- 21) To what task or project do you want to recommit your efforts?
- 22) What specific steps can you take to strengthen your commitment to the responsibilities God has given you?