

THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE CHURCH

Sermon Outline — Nehemiah 6

Sermon Series: Nehemiah > Repair, Rebuild & Restore

Sunday, April 2, 2023 — Palm Sunday

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Three Areas The Devil Loves to Attack¹

1. Our relationship with God the Father gives us a sense of _____.
2. Our relationship with God the Son gives us at sense of _____.
3. Our relationship with God the Spirit gives us a sense of _____.

Why Does The Devil Launch His Missile Attacks At Us?

1. The devil wants to create _____.
 - + *Nehemiah 6:1-4*, “Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained—though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. ²So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, ³so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?” ⁴Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply” (NLT).
 - The strategy of the enemies of Nehemiah was to create a _____.
 - + *Nehemiah 6:2b*, “Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono” (ESV).
 - + *Nehemiah 6:2c*, “But they intended to do me harm” (ESV).
 - Implication: When countering the attach of confusion, you must be willing to be _____.
2. The devil wants to create a _____.
 - + *Nehemiah 6:5-6*, “The fifth time, Sanballat’s servant came with an open letter in his hand, ⁶and this is what it said: “There is a rumor among the surrounding nations, and Geshem tells me it is true, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king” (NLT).
 - The strategy of the enemies of Nehemiah was to _____ him.
 - + *Proverbs 6:16-19*, “There are seven things that the Lord hates and cannot tolerate: ¹⁷a proud and puffed up heart, a lying tongue, hands that kill innocent people, ¹⁸a mind that thinks up wicked plans, feet that hurry off to do evil, ¹⁹a false witness who tells one lie after another, and someone who stirs up trouble among friends with their words” (PAR).
 - + *Nehemiah 6:8*, “There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing” (NLT).
 - + *Nehemiah 6:9a*, “For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done” (ESV).
 - + *Nehemiah 6:9b*, “But now, O God, strengthen my hands” (ESV).

Characteristics of a Gossiper²

- a. The gossip rarely _____.
- b. The gossip’s information is _____ and _____.
- c. Gossipers lace _____.
- d. The gossip _____ of the proper setting for sharing information.

¹ Cryil Barber, Nehemiah And The Dynamics of Effective Leadership.

² Charles R. Swindoll, *Hand Me Another Brick*, Digital Version, p. 75-76.

- + Matthew 16:18b, Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (ESV).

Pastor Alan Redpath's Acrostic for T.H.I.N.K.³

T = Is it _____?
H = is it _____?
I = Is it _____?
N = Is it _____?
K = Is it _____?

3. The devil wants to create a _____.

- + Nehemiah 6:10, "Later I went to visit Shemaiah son of Delaiah and grandson of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home. He said, "Let us meet together inside the Temple of God and bolt the doors shut. Your enemies are coming to kill you tonight" (NLT).
+ Nehemiah 6:11-13, "But I replied, "Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won't do it!" ¹²I realized that God had not spoken to him, but that he had uttered this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me" (NLT).

- The strategy of the enemies of Nehemiah was to create _____.

How To Determine if The Counsel You Receive Is Godly

- Does the counsel violate your _____?
- Does the counsel contradict _____?
- Does the counsel hinder your _____?

- + Nehemiah 6:14, "Remember 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).

4. The devil wants to create _____.

- + Nehemiah 6:17-19, "During those fifty-two days, many letters went back and forth between Tobiah and the nobles of Judah. ¹⁸For many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him because his father-in-law was Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan was married to the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹They kept telling me about Tobiah's good deeds, and then they told him everything I said. And Tobiah kept sending threatening letters to intimidate me" (NLT).

- The strategy of the enemies of Nehemiah was to create _____ by the Jews to him.

- + Nehemiah 6:15-16, "So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul (i.e., October 2, 445 BC), in fifty-two days. ¹⁶When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God" (NIV).

- When believers resist the lure of the devil and keep on building, keep on serving two things will eventually happen: God is _____ and God's cause is _____.

- + Ephesians 6:12 "Our fight is not with people. It is against the leaders and the powers and the spirits of darkness in this world. It is against the demon world that works in the heavens" (NLV).

³ <https://stevanbecker.wordpress.com/2016/11/07/think-about-t-h-i-n-k/>.