

## Mission Accomplished Nehemiah 6

### Introduction:

1. There is no greater feeling than seeing a task through to completion.
  - You set a goal, you work towards it, you achieve the goal, and say, “Mission accomplished!”
  - Of course this requires that you don’t quit along the way. Many people have trouble sticking to something and finishing it.
2. Nehemiah had a goal. His goal was to rebuild the wall and gates of Jerusalem for God’s glory. They lay in shambles. The wall was broken down and the gates had been burned with fire. Jerusalem (the city of God) was a reproach to God.
3. I love verse 15, “*So the wall was finished...*” Nehemiah saw his ministry and mission through to completion. He didn’t quit.
4. This was one of Paul’s constant concerns for himself and for his co-laborers. **1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Timothy 4:5** (“make full proof” – to carry out fully, entirely accomplish); **Colossians 4:17**
5. At the end of Paul’s life, Paul said that he had finished his course (**2 Timothy 4:7**). Paul could say, “Mission accomplished.”
6. Guaranteed, Satan will try to hinder you, but believers must endeavor to finish the course God has given to them. How can you do this?
7. Nehemiah will provide a great example for us to model.

### You must stay focused and refuse to get preoccupied. vs. 1-4

1. Nehemiah’s enemies were smart. They knew they could hinder the work if they could simply get Nehemiah preoccupied and get his mind off the work God had given him (read verses 1-2).
  - They said, “Nehemiah, let’s get together for some fellowship. We can talk this thing through, and come to some sensible compromises.”
2. Nehemiah saw right through their charade (end of verse 2). How did he respond? He responded like a leader (vs. 3-4). Nehemiah stayed focused and refused to get preoccupied.
3. As believers, I believe our first thoughts should be towards God, God’s work, and whatever ministry God has given to us.
4. Yet life has its shiny bells and whistles which can distract us from what is most important. Satan can get us so preoccupied with the temporal that we have no time for the eternal things that really matter.
5. If we are not careful, our Christian life can lose the correct focus, and we can end up spending the best years of our lives in things that will carry no heavenly value whatsoever.
6. Here is a passage to commit to memory – **Colossians 3:1-2**. When you find yourself beginning to lose spiritual focus, go back to this passage and remind yourself of the truth.

**We must look to God for strength and refuse to be intimidated. vs. 5-9**

1. When their first plan didn't work, Nehemiah's enemies came a fifth time, but this time it was with an open letter in hand. vs. 5
2. This letter was full of lies and propaganda designed to weaken Nehemiah and his resolve to accomplish God's work. It was also designed to weaken Nehemiah's co-laborers by planting suspicion and doubt in their minds regarding Nehemiah. vs. 6-7
3. I love the way Nehemiah responded to this attack. He still wouldn't meet with them and he says, "None of that is true. It is all lies you have made up out of your own heart." vs. 8
4. I love the honesty of verse 9, "*For they all made us afraid...*" The lies initially put fear into their hearts and threatened to weaken them.
5. But what did Nehemiah do? He immediately went to God and said, "*O God, strengthen my hands.*"
6. Christian, if you are involved in God's work, Satan is not going to give you a free pass. He will tell you lies and seek to intimidate you through fear. Trials will come into your life, designed to weaken and destroy you. Paul knew about this.  
**2 Corinthians 1:8**
7. What do you do when you are pressed out of measure and above strength? You do like Nehemiah and Paul. You resort to your God and look for Him to fill you with His supernatural strength. **2 Corinthians 1:9-10, 12:9**

**You must use discernment and avoid temptation. vs. 10-14**

1. The enemy tried to derail Nehemiah once again. This time they attempted to use spiritual deception. They hired some prophets to lie to Nehemiah and convince him that an attack on his life was imminent. They told him to flee into the temple and hide out. vs. 10
2. Can you imagine the fear and panic that this would have set off among the workers if their leader was hiding out in the temple? It could have brought the entire project to a screeching halt.
3. Nehemiah used spiritual discernment and immediately recognized that this was a hoax designed to discredit him and bring fear upon the people. vs. 12-13
4. Nehemiah would have no part in the prophet's advice. vs. 11
5. Christian, Satan is the father of lies. He is a master deceiver. He will tell you lies in an attempt to entice you into compromise and sin and to discredit you before others.
  - **Illustration of Achan (Joshua 7):** Achan lacked discernment, believed the lies of Satan and brought disgrace to himself and his family and brought the work of God to a standstill.
6. **1 Thessalonians 5:21** says to, "*Prove (test) all things; hold fast that which is good.*" This is called spiritual discernment. When we do this, we see through the lies of Satan, and the next verse says that we, "*Abstain from all appearance of evil.*"
7. This kind of spiritual discernment only comes as we study God's Word and pray without ceasing.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Nehemiah faced challenge after challenge, but he didn't quit. Verse 15 declares, "*So the wall was finished...*" How did Nehemiah overcome these challenges?
2. What a testimony this was to those around them. vs. 16
3. Christian, let's finish our course and bring glory to our God!