

#10 "Distraction from the Main Attraction"

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah Study Sheet

Eastside Christian Fellowship: October 28, 2007

Text: Nehemiah 6:1-15

- ✍ According to the I Peter 5:8 and 2 Cor. 11:14 how does Satan deceive us? Give examples of this from your own life.
- ✍ What are the greatest distractions in your life?

Three types of distractions that Nehemiah had to deal with:

1. **Intrigue that diverts** Nehemiah 6:1-4

- ✍ How did the enemies try to distract Nehemiah in these 4 verses?
- ✍ How could their offer have been intriguing to Nehemiah?
- ✍ What was Nehemiah's response? Does he sound a little self-righteous and arrogant in his response? Explain why or why not.

Sanballat knows that the easiest and quickest way to stop a great work or a dream is to stop a great leader.

- ✍ Has your attention been diverted away from a dream or goal because of something else that intrigued you but ended up going nowhere?
- ✍ Is it easy for you to say no to distractions and yes to priorities or does it depend on the situation. Discuss and explain.
- ✍ Ask others in your home group to help battle the distractions in your life.

A Look at Jesus:

- ✍ How was Jesus distracted in His ministry by diversions? List some of them.
- ✍ How did he handle them?

2. **Lies and rumors** Nehemiah 6:5-9

- ✍ What exactly are the allegations against Nehemiah?
- ✍ In what form did they come to him? Why do you think it was an "open letter"?
- ✍ How did Nehemiah respond? What do you personally learn from his response?
- ✍ Have you ever had rumors or lies told about you?
- ✍ Were they destructive? Did they distract you from your purpose during that time?
- ✍ Have you ever had your reputation attacked? Explain.
- ✍ How did you deal with this kind of attack?

A look at Jesus:

- ✍ Did Jesus deal with the distractions caused by lies or rumors? How so?
- ✍ How did he handle the lies and rumors?
- ✍ What kind of king was he rumored to be?
- ✍ How did that differ from his true identity?

3. **Deception** Nehemiah 6:10-14

- ✍ Set up the scene for what is happening in these 5 verses?
- ✍ Why was the story being told to Nehemiah initially believable?
- ✍ How did Nehemiah discern that there was deception?
- ✍ In what way is Christianity not immune from false prophets?

- ✍ How do we practically test teaching that we hear?
- ✍ Have you ever found yourself being deceived by false teaching that got you off track? Explain.

A look at Jesus:

- ✍ Did Jesus deal ever have to deal with the distractions of deceptive teaching or deception from religious leaders?
- ✍ How did he handle it? Cite specific examples.

Nehemiah announces in 6:15 that the wall was finished in just 52 days.

- ✍ To what did the surrounding nations attribute the rapid building?
- ✍ What do the words uttered by Jesus on the cross, “it is finished” mean to you as a Christian?

“Strip down start running and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, both who began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: the cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

Heb 12:1-2 The Message.

- ✍ How does this passage speak of “long obedience in the same direction”?