

Nehemiah Chapter 6

Bullies and Building

HOOK:

1. Were you ever picked on by a bully as a child? What was the experience like? What eventually happened?
2. Describe the most intense spiritual warfare you can think of which you participated.
3. What accomplishment in your life seemed to be impossible, but ultimately became extremely gratifying for you.

BOOK:

1. Verse 2 - Do you think the message was sent by letter or word of mouth?
2. Vs2 - It was over 40 miles to the plain of Ono, next to the Mediterranean sea. Does this give rise to suspicion by Nehemiah?
3. Vs 3 - What dangers would a messenger accept who was working for Nehemiah?
4. Vs 5 - What's the significance of an "unsealed letter?"
5. Vs 5 - What would be the result of this information being public?
6. Vs 6 - What is significant about the first line of this message? (wedge between Artaxerxes and Nehemiah.)
7. Vs 7 - What did Sanballat just not understand about Nehemiah and God? (Sanballat assumed that the offer to align with Nehemiah, possibly for mutual protection, would tempt Nehemiah. But, Nehemiah's faith and guidance was from God with loyalty to Artaxerxes.)
8. Vs 9 - What was Nehemiah's response to intimidation? (prayer)
9. Vs 10 - Why would Nehemiah initially trust Shemaiah? (Son of a priest.)
10. Vs 11 - Why did Nehemiah reject going into the Temple for asylum? (He's not a priest. See) How about God?
11. Vs 13 - What would have resulted with the opinions of people toward Nehemiah if he would have gone into the Temple?
12. Vs 16 - What was Nehemiah's conclusion as to the reason for success in rebuilding the wall?

LOOK:

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 Why is it often hard to remember that behind our earthly conflicts is the cosmic war described by Paul here?
2. Read Acts 21:10-14 How did Paul respond to the fact that there were men who wanted to take his life?
3. Read Deuteronomy 13:1-5 What does this passage say about testing those who claim to be speaking God's Word to us?
4. Why shouldn't we listen to everyone who dispenses religious counsel (as in Neh 6:10-12)
5. This section is deeper than an incident in old Jerusalem. It is a description of the way evil works. Describe some of the ways evil works. Need ideas? John 8:42-44, 10:10, 2Cor 11:3, ch 13-15, 1 Peter 5:8-9) (Persistent, sly, cunning, patient, opportunistic)
6. What kind of intense opposition are you facing in your walk right now? How can Neh. 6 apply?

TOOK:

1. Who are people who are in constant spiritual battles? (pastor, elders, deacons, seekers, teens, college)
2. Proverbs 28:4-5