

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

RESTORED

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

Lesson 10 – When Opposition Turns Ugly

Nehemiah 6:1-14

Nehemiah had almost finished the work on the wall when the attacks came again. This time the opposition turned ugly; they came at Nehemiah personally. The enemy knew that if they didn't do something drastic to stop the work once and for all, they would be defeated. So they attacked Nehemiah with reckless accusations and slanderous lies in hopes of discrediting him as a trustworthy leader. Did it work? Not at all! Nehemiah stood fast, refusing to be distracted from the work and committed his enemies to God. He knew he could never defeat the enemy on his own, but he was absolutely confident that no enemy would stand a chance against his all-powerful God! He also knew that in his weakness, God would be his all-sufficient strength.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: Nehemiah 6:1-14

Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),² that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm.³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"⁴ But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.⁵ Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand.⁶ In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king.⁷ And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart."⁹ For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.¹⁰ Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said,

“Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you.”¹¹ And I said, “Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!”¹² Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.¹³ For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.¹⁴ My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.

This Week’s Memory Verse:

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10(NKJV)

1. Read Nehemiah 6:1-3. The enemy will always seek to stop what God is doing. What insight can we gain from Nehemiah’s response that will help when the enemy tries to distract us from what God wants us to do? _____

2. Look up Matthew 27:12-14. How did Jesus respond to those who falsely accused Him? _____
3. We’ve all heard it said, “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” But, truth be known, words do hurt. Words can cause us to respond in the wrong way if we’re not careful. What do you learn from the verses below that will help when handling accusations and lies?
 - a. Matthew 5:44: _____

 - b. 1 Peter 2:20-23: _____

 - c. 1 Peter 3:8-9: _____
