

Community Group Study Guide

The Fruit of Dedication Nehemiah 6

Main Idea

Single minded devotion to the mission of God breeds discernment which provides faithfulness which breeds an audience as a watching world sees a life count for God

Overview

I. Dedication breeds discernment and discernment breeds faithfulness (6.1-14, 17-19)

A. First attack – poorly veiled request for diplomacy

1. Nehemiah turns down request to meet because he is devoted to the work at hand
2. Enemies were simply trying to do Nehemiah harm
3. We must be sensitive to the things that will draw us away and kill those temptations in our lives

B. Second attack – False rumors about Nehemiah's intentions

1. Enemies created false rumors about Nehemiah's intentions in hopes that it would draw out Artaxerxes
2. Nehemiah calls their bluff, and prays
3. We must not be drawn away by false accusations of the evil one, but stand firm in the truth of God's word

C. Third attack – Poser prophet

1. Enemies hire a false prophet and that prophet tries to lure Nehemiah into Temple out of a fear for his life
2. Nehemiah stands against the lies of someone using the things of God for a lie because of his devotion to God
3. Pray for your leaders, that they would not be drawn away from the mission of God

D. Fourth attack – Intimidation

1. People indebted to Tobiah and others stood against Nehemiah and spoke of Tobiah in Nehemiah's presence
2. An effort to incite fear and intimidation to Nehemiah in hopes that he would stop
3. We must remember the Gospel is divisive and people often hate the message

II. Dedication demands an audience

A. Nehemiah and his crew complete the wall

1. Passage is a bit in passing
2. Reason being, it isn't about the wall, but about making a people separate, a display of a Holy God
3. God was ultimately not rebuilding a wall, but a people

B. When they complete the wall the enemies are in awe, see themselves smaller, and fear because they know God helped build that wall

1. Our lives must be lived with devotion to God in order that this reaction would be more common, as it is too many Christians do not live such lives and so far too many to not react as these

Questions

1. How is it we can be more sensitive to the places we are susceptible and be drawn away from the mission at hand? How can we actively fight those vulnerable places so we won't be led away?
2. Discuss the importance of investing in the word, sitting under the word, studying the word in light of the lies that are thrown at us.
3. Why is it the evil one is so interested in bringing down leaders? How can you help protect your leaders as they try and help protect you?
4. Why is the Gospel divisive? What evidence do we have in Scriptures that this is true? If we attempted to conform to culture by making the Gospel more palatable, what could be lost? Why would this be important?