



November 19
Sunday Sermon Study Guide
Lead Pastor Brian Bales
For Something Greater:
Relentless - Nehemiah 6:2-16

Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates),² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.” But they intended to do me harm.³ And I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?”⁴ And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.⁵ In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand.⁶ In it was written, “It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king.⁷ And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, ‘There is a king in Judah.’ And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together.”⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind.”⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.” But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

*¹⁰ Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night.”¹¹ But I said, “Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in.”¹² And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.¹³ For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me a bad name in order to taunt me.¹⁴ Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid.¹⁵ So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.¹⁶ And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. Nehemiah 6:1-16
ESV*

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God’s word.

LESSONS TO EXPLORE

1. Opposition is Real
2. Enemies will be Persistent
3. Enemies will Lie
4. Focus on God and the Goal

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Brian emphasizes that there will always be opposition in this world, and we will likely have enemies who will seek to sideline us. This is true out in our world and inside the Church walls. It is a reality in the corporate landscape and even sadly, within families.
 - a. In this chapter the walls have been rebuilt and only the gate doors must be installed. Nehemiah and the people must be both elated and exhausted. His enemies realize this is their last opportunity to *kill the mission* and so they begin with an invitation sent to Nehemiah. The invitation may have been enticing, a chance to get away and rest, a short vacation but what was their underlying goal?
 - b. Consider a time when someone in your life appeared to be your supporter or ally only to discover that they had a hidden agenda. How did you discern what was behind the words or actions that revealed their true motives?
 - c. Consider this passage as a guide for discernment. *For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*” 1 Samuel 16:7
 - d. How does Nehemiah navigate the trap that his enemies are setting for him?

- b. As we move forward in this season how should we look at this story and Nehemiah as a godly leader and allow his example to inform and influence us as Christ Followers?

MAKING IT REAL

1. How will you pursue living as godly leader in your sphere of influence and within the CFC church?
2. How will you allow God to strengthen you in times of fatigue or fear?