

Restoring Foundations

Restoring Mission (Shrewd yet Innocent): Nehemiah 6 & 7

1. Read Nehemiah 6:1-4 with Nehemiah 4:1-2. What had been accomplished that the enemies of God declared would not? What tactics did the enemies of God next take and how did Nehemiah respond? Why do you think Nehemiah describes the invitation the way he does and what would have influenced his attitude?
2. Read Nehemiah 6:5-9. Why would Sanballat send the letter unsealed? What statements are made in the letter and what threat is implied? How would this impact the Jews? What is Nehemiah's response?
3. Read Nehemiah 6:10-14, Numbers 18:5-7 and 2 Chronicles 26:16-21. From where does Nehemiah's next opposition come? Why did Nehemiah not want to go into the temple? What does this reveal about Nehemiah?
4. Read Matthew 10:15-17 with John 2:23-25. What does Jesus warn us to do when we deal with unbelievers and what would this look like today? What example does Jesus give us in how he behaved with some of those who seemed to be his followers? How have you been shrewd and innocent at the same time?
5. Read Nehemiah 6:15-19. What great work is accomplished and how long did it take? What is the reaction of those who had opposed the work on the wall and why do they react this way? How does the opposition continue?
6. How do the accusations and threats from chapter 6 mirror those tactics that Satan uses against us? How have you experienced this in your own life and how have you defended against them? How can you encourage others that are going through similar situations?
7. Read Nehemiah 7:1-3 with Nehemiah 2:11-18. Compare the conditions in chapter 7 with those in chapter 2. How had Nehemiah been a faithful leader? How had God been faithful to Nehemiah?
8. Read Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalms 119:90, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 2 Timothy 2:13, and Hebrews 10:23. How do these verses encourage you in your current trials?