

Sermon Discussion Questions | October 23, 2016

Sermon Series: Building the Church: Supporting Her Leaders Pastor Bob Hopper Nehemiah 6:1-14, 1 John 4:16-19

1. What was the strategy that Sanballat used to seek to destroy Nehemiah and the good work that God had called him to do? (vs. 1-7). Do you believe in spiritual warfare? What strategy does Satan use to seek to destroy you and the good work that God has called you to do?
2. What is slander and what does God think about it? [see *Prov. 6:16-19; Mk. 7:21-22; Jms. 3*]
3. What is wrong with assigning wicked motives to someone else? When we assume the role and knowledge of the Holy Spirit, what does that reveal about our own hearts? How does *I Corinthians 13* speak to this issue? How would relationships with other believers be healthier if we “always assumed the best of each other unless there is clear evidence to the contrary.”
4. How does Nehemiah respond to these tactics (vs. 8)? How do you respond to Satan’s tactics?
5. What is the key strategy of Nehemiah’s enemies (vs. 9a)? What is the relationship between fear and immobility? Are there areas in your life where fear is presenting you from “taking the bat off your shoulder”? Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about those fears?
6. What is the sinister strategy of Shemaiah (vs. 10-12)? Have you experienced temptations like this in your Christian walk? How have you responded and what was the result?
7. What is the relationship between fear and disobedience (vs. 13)? If Nehemiah gave in to or was controlled by fear, how would he have sinned? How has your own personal fear tempted you to sin in the following areas: reconciling with an estranged antagonist, tithing, and evangelizing.
8. How does the gospel displace our fear with humble courage (*I John 4:16-19*)?
9. The gospel tells us that we are adopted daughters and sons of a sovereign Heavenly Father (*I John 3:1-3*). Do you understand and agree with the Westminster Confession of Faith (chapter 21, Adoption) that, as God’s children, we are “pitied, protected, provided for and loving chastened” as God’s precious children. How does believing this to be true and receiving this to be true in your own life address the fears that you have? [fears such as financial fears, health fears, national election fears, and fears about your future]

10. What is the connection between the presence of fear and the weakness of faith (*Matthew 6:25-34; 8:23-27*). When is the last time you repented of weakness of faith as evidenced by your personal fears?

11. What is the significance of the 5 lb. dumbbell and the 500 lb. barbell illustration? If you trust God for eternal life when you die, can you not trust Him for temporal life while you live? Take time in prayer, thanking God for His presence, protection, and provision in this life – and the next.