Persistence

Nehemiah 6

1. Intro
   1. Tonight…baptism service
   2. Last Week: The enemy doesn’t always strike from within.
   3. So, as we bring this to Sherman, be reminded that the life change and commitment to the Lord that has occurred this summer is drawing the attention from the enemy of God.
   4. There are those that want nothing more than for the church to fail.
   5. There are those that would like to steal GLORY from the MOST HIGH…but they will find that to be an impossible task.
   6. The enemy of God is not creative, He continues to do the same old thing, in the same old way, and keep us from our task.
2. Text
   1. Verses 1-2:
      1. Tactic: distraction
         1. When the threat of physical assault didn’t work, the tactic changes
         2. Distraction can be a more effective way to stop ministry.
      2. Verse 3:
         1. Nehemiah is having none of it…
         2. He was focused, resolved, and smart enough to recognize the threat.
         3. When people show you who they are, believe them.
      3. Verse 4-7
         1. The enemy is persistent
         2. Many requests for a “meeting”
         3. And then a threat to make up lies.
         4. What I have experienced in ministry in dealing with threats against the church:
            1. When the truth does not meet the narrative, the truth is what is altered, but actual truth cannot be altered.
            2. The threats to spread lies are going to sometimes be effective, and some will be lead astray.
            3. But the Lord is our defense, and HE is the one doing this work.
            4. I truly believe that Nehemiah is showing us an example of how to keep on keeping on, and trusting the Lord for victory.
            5. The Lord only asks for our obedience.
      4. Verse 8-9 Nehemiah refuses to be distracted and prays for the Lord to strengthen His hand.
      5. Verse 10-14 We have another tactic, but it is the same…
         1. Falsehoods
         2. Conspiracy
         3. Evil diabolical plans, but God protected Nehemiah.
      6. Verse 15-19
         1. Wall finished in 52 days
            1. 2 miles of wall (or so)
            2. 40 feet tall
            3. 8 feet wide
         2. The testimony to this work getting done in the fashion and time in which it was done was a testimony to all who witnessed it of the power of God.
         3. They perceived that the work was accomplished by the help of God, and it brought fear.
         4. Vv 18-19, the enemies of God tried to promote Tobiah as “good” but Nehemiah saw through the nonsense.
3. Point
   1. Recognize the Attack of the Enemy
      1. Know your enemy:
         1. The enemy of God diverts attention from God
         2. The enemy seeks glory for self
         3. The enemy tries to keep you from complete devotion.
         4. The enemy will not allow the work of God to continue without interference
         5. The enemy is always on the job
         6. The enemy does not play fair.
      2. The Thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. John 10:10
      3. Nehemiah saw through the scheme, and was not distracted.
      4. This is a lesson to us, stay on mission, stay on focus, keep persistent.
   2. Persistence can Pay off:
      1. Persistence: firm or obstinate continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.
      2. Through the power of God, we can find the drive and determination to complete the task before us.
      3. God has called us, empowered us, and equipped us. That should always be at the front of our minds.
      4. The pay off was not the completion of the wall, that was just a part of it.
      5. The pay of was the testimony
         1. You don’t have a testimony without a test
         2. And God has a way of bringing the most out of any situation.
      6. We must stand firm and hold to the truth…always
      7. Obedience will drive us.
   3. Testimony in due Time
      1. The Testimony was heard loud and clear
      2. The people building the wall could not have done this work other than by the power of God.
      3. The truth of the situation is that there was too much work to accomplish by the power of the flesh.
      4. Don’t you like being a part of a ministry like this!
      5. The testimony of faithful service is a story that makes much of God and little of God’s servants.
      6. The testimony seen here:
         1. God can rebuild and restore: Grace
         2. God can do miraculous things: Omnipotence
         3. God can inspire His people: Empowerment
         4. God can thwart the plan of the enemy: Omniscience
         5. God can strike fear in the hearts of humanity: GLORY, HOLINESS
      7. What is the testimony people are hearing when they watch your life?
4. Close