

Nehemiah: The Four Strategies of Demonic Distraction
Nehemiah 6:1-19

I. The Dangers of Demonic Distractions

A. The danger of distraction

1. Distractions prevent us from accomplishing our greatest efforts
 - a. Linda and I at Sven & Ole's - TVs
 - b. Violinist
 - (1) Chores then practice
 - (2) Practice then chores
2. Entrepreneur.com
 - a. The majority of us can only truly focus for an average of six hours a week, says David Rock, co-founder of the NeuroLeadership Institute and author of *Your Brain at Work* (HarperCollins, 2009)
 - b. it's crucial that we use the time wisely.
3. Your ability to stay focused is more than just a worthwhile thing to cultivate--it's a critical factor in your success or failure.
 - a. Getting things done is imperative
 - b. focus is the key to getting things done.
4. If handling ordinary daily distractions is critical to success, what about when the work is spiritual and the expected outcome is the glory of God?

B. Nehemiah faces Four Demonic Distractions

1. Invitation to disaster (6:1-4)
2. Accusation of disloyalty (6:5-9)
3. Temptation to dishonor (6:10-14)
4. Realization of disturbance (6:15-19)

II. The Dangers of Preaching Nehemiah

A. Possible Responses

1. Ordinary Avoidances
 - a. 10 Smart Tips
 - b. 3 Critical Ways
 - c. 5 Easy Steps
2. **Best response for one in Nehemiah's role: maintain an absolute, faithful commitment to a fully realized relationship with God for His glory.**

B. Who is the hero of the story?

1. Nehemiah's History
 - a. Gets the burden
 - b. Makes the presentation
 - c. Implements the plan
 - d. Faces the opposition
 - e. Governs the people
 - f. Builds the wall
2. But **Nehemiah is not the hero of Nehemiah's story!**
 - a. Nehemiah serves God's glory

- b. God in His mercy, power, love, and glory is the hero of this story
- c. God is the hero in the lives of all those who live for His glory

C. Where is the hero in the story?

- 1. Nehemiah
 - a. v. 9 “But now, OI God, strengthen my hands.”
 - b. v. 14 “Remember, O my God”
 - c. v. 16 “. . . they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.”
- 2. Women’s Bible Study: “The Names of God”
 - a. The God Who Sees - *El Roi* (Hagar)
 - b. The God Who is There - *YHWH Shammah*
 - c. The God Who Triumphs - *YHWH Nissi* (Banner)
 - d. The God Who Shepherds - *YHWH Ra’ah*
- 3. **God is the hero in the lives of all those who live for His glory**
 - a. God may not seem to take dramatic center-stage in every life event, but He is ever present and ever active in all His glory to spread the knowledge of His glory through those who by faith have committed their lives to Him.
 - b. How can God be the hero in your life?
 - (1) Confess sin and repent
 - (2) Believe the gospel and be baptized
 - (3) Love God and obey His word