

NEHEMIAH 6:1-16

Introduction

What do you do when you are falsely accused of something? Our initial response might be anger, knowing that what is being said is not true. Then we probably want to do all we can to defend our reputation. There is certainly a time for defending the good reputation God has given us. But there are also times when the wise thing to do is to ignore it, keep doing what you know to be right, and trust that the truth will eventually come out. The time and effort that it takes trying to refute the slander might inadvertently accomplish its evil intent, keeping us from doing what we should be putting our time and effort into doing. In this next section from Nehemiah, we again see the Godly wisdom of Nehemiah to balance those two reactions when facing various challenges to the work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem that God has called him to do. Let's learn from Nehemiah about reacting to false accusations.

Nehemiah 6:1-9

1. Having heard of Nehemiah's progress in the building of Jerusalem's walls, how did Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem plan to stop Nehemiah?

2. How did Nehemiah respond to their request?

3. Nehemiah's opposition was relentless! After the 4th request, Sanballat sends his own aid with a sealed letter for Nehemiah. What tactic did Sanballat now use?

4. What is Nehemiah's reaction this time?

Nehemiah 6:10-16

5. How did Sanballat attempt to use an "insider" to prevent Nehemiah's reconstruction of Jerusalem's walls?

6. How long did it take Nehemiah and his fellow Jews to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem?