

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Why Should I Come Down?

Part I

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How many times have I walked in the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, only to take my eyes off Jesus when I see the wind boisterous? (Mt 14.28-30) I begin to sink and wonder what happened. I become discouraged, faint-hearted, dismayed.

It is so easy, when you are serving the Lord, to take your eyes off the Lord for just a moment; but in that moment a life can be changed to walk away from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The enemy is shrewd and cunning. He knows what will distract us from the work of the Lord Jesus. The enemy knows what will cause us to walk with our heads down and our hearts discouraged – and he will attack.

Remember the Israelites who took their harps down from the willow trees? When they were asked to sing one of the songs of Zion, their response was "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" (Ps 137.1-4) Our response should be, "How can we do anything but sing the Lord's song?"

Just this morning, I went to Nehemiah Six to once again be reminded of how much I need to be like Nehemiah who was able to say to his enemies, "**I will not come down to you.**" The methods used by Satan to discourage Nehemiah and all God's people, to hinder the work of the Lord, are familiar to most of us who are serving the Lord Jesus Christ and living for Him daily.

The wall of Jerusalem had been destroyed; God's people were without defense against the enemy. They were vulnerable. God sent Nehemiah to see that the wall was rebuilt (Neh 4 and 6); but as soon as the people began to rebuild, Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem, and the rest of the enemies of the Israelites became wroth.

- 1) They mocked God's people (Neh 2.19; 4.1-3).
- 2) They declared war against them (Neh 4.7, 8).
- 3) They tried to convince Nehemiah that he should come down from the wall and meet with them (Neh 6.1,2).
- 4) They lied, accusing and threatening Nehemiah (Neh 6.5-7).
- 5) They hired false prophets to lure him into hiding in the house of God in fear for his life (Neh 6.10-12).

When the world and/or "churches" of today threaten you with not dialoging with them and doing things their way, or they endeavor to intimidate you and say, "We need to come together on that which we have in common, come together in our commonality," remember: **IF** Jesus Christ – the only Begotten Son of God, Who died on the Cross of Calvary for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day – is **not at the center of their lives and beliefs**, we have **nothing** in common!

Also, remember the following words of the Lord God Almighty to Ezekiel. Let us claim these words for ourselves.

And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns [*be*] with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks . . . (Eze 2.6).

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Saints, are you doing a work to which God has called you? How many times have you – those of you who are truly called to the ministry of the Lord and are walking with Him – experienced the enemy coming against you like he did Nehemiah and all the people of God?

Has he mocked you, fought against you, tried to make you come down to his level, and then lied about you with accusations and threats, even sending false prophets to attempt to frighten you? Have you experienced such things?

The world has been teaching for years that we need to discuss our beliefs so we can hear “their” understanding of life. The words come to us that if we are not willing to dialogue, we have a problem. The world teaches that if we *really love* as Christians (love as the world understands), then we will be understanding of them and their beliefs; and we will dialogue with them. They know that the more we dialogue with them about their way of life, the more we become like them, become one of them. The more we dialogue with them the farther we will drift from the Lord Jesus Christ and His will.

Nehemiah is determined to walk with the Lord; **he will not come down and waste time dialoguing with the enemy.** His heart is fixed upon the Lord so that no one can deter him from completing the work of the Lord: “And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I [am] doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?” (Neh 6:3).

Nehemiah had no time for their foolishness, their ways, their sinful hearts. He understood that to “come down” to dialogue with them meant death. He understood that their projection of concern and wanting to “help” him was deceit; it was death, death physically most probably, but certainly in accordance to what the Lord told him to do.

Being distracted from the work of the Lord will bring death to our souls. When someone reacts to our response about not wanting to meet with them, to dialogue with them, by saying, “You are afraid; you should not be afraid of us;” or, “You are hiding something by not talking to us;” or, “You are walking in sin and do not want to be corrected;” or . . . When someone reacts this way, we need to do as Nehemiah: continue in the work of the Lord. Any time spent walking with these people will bring us down. We must not “come down” to them physically. We must not “come down” to them in conversation. We must not “come down” regardless of their wrangling – or else we will **go down**. **We must not “come down”** to their level.

When Nehemiah refused to come down and dialogue with them, they devised a lie, accusing him of planning to rebel against the king.

Nehemiah was able to continue working while responding to their lies: “Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart” (Neh 6:8).

Beware! Satan always uses a counterfeit for what the Lord has (II Cor 11.12-15; Mt 7.22, 23; 24.24; II Th 2.9-11). The enemy comes through whatever vessel is weak – though they may see themselves as strong or present themselves as strong.

Nehemiah was not deceived by the enemy, even when the “prophets” came, because his heart was fixed upon the Lord. Nehemiah knew the voice of the Lord so that when the enemy came in the Name of the Lord, he knew the deceit.

Let us look at Nehemiah’s response to the lies and threats of the false prophet trying to draw him down from the work to which the Lord called him, trying to cause him to flee and hide in the Temple in fear.

And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

Therefore [was] he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and [that] they might have [matter] for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear (Neh 6.12-14).

I am reminded of Ezra 4.2, 3 where there are those who say they want to build (work) with “you.”

Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye [*do*]; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither (Ezra 4.2).

Ezra, and those with him, responded with, “...Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel . . .” Zerubbabel knew they could not work with the enemy.

If you are *truly* walking with the Lord Jesus Christ, know that today people will say the “right” words but mean something very different than you understand, thinking you will not know the difference. They also will impose on you what the world says, “If you were caring for our souls, you would come talk to us, we could work together.”

Know that Nehemiah discerned the wicked devices, the wicked ways of Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem in Nehemiah Six. Know that the fathers of Israel also discerned their wicked devices and ways and the falseness of their words.

The enemy often uses deception to distract us from the ministry to which the Lord has called us – and, he will use whomever will bend with him in this deception. We must, I say again, we must daily be walking with the Lord Jesus Christ and **daily** reading the Holy Bible, listening to the Holy Spirit (Jn 15.1-11).

Read the Word of the Lord to discern God’s truth and to discern who are living for Jesus Christ, who are walking with Him on the *Via Dolorosa*! The ability to discern the counterfeit work of the enemy comes through a close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing Him and His Word, His voice, so well that we will immediately recognize the counterfeit, recognize the spirit of the enemy (Jn 10.25-27).