

NEHEMIAH'S VICTORY OVER THE ENEMY

(Nehemiah 6:1-14)

I. THREE ATTEMPTS TO FOOL NEHEMIAH (6:1-14)

A. The Wicked Plot to DESTROY Nehemiah (6:1-4)

1. Up to this point in the building project, Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem _____ everything that the Jews did, but they also realized that they had _____ been successful in stopping the work; it was time for a _____ approach. (v. 1)
2. Now Judah's enemies offered a _____, they asked to _____ with the Jews and work together, so they asked Nehemiah to meet them in a remote area to talk. (v. 2a)
3. This old ploy by Satan, "*If you can't beat them, _____ them*" is still being used today, it's called, the _____. (2 Cor. 11:13-15)
4. Nehemiah knew that this "invitation" would end in open _____ for him; and so, he adamantly _____ by telling them that he could not allow for distractions on the wall. (v. 2b-3)
5. The enemy was persistent, but Nehemiah's _____ and personal _____ told him that if the offer was wrong the first time, it was also wrong the fourth time. (v. 4)

B. The Wicked Plot to DISCREDIT Nehemiah (6:5-9)

1. Sanballat's dishonest intentions were also revealed in his second plan; he _____ sent an _____ (public) letter so as to spread malicious _____ about Nehemiah and the Jews. (v. 5)

2. The alleged stories claimed that the Jews' intentions all along was to _____ against Artaxerxes, and that Nehemiah was secretly setting himself up as the new _____, and as a _____ to Persia. (vv. 6-7)

3. The governor flatly _____ all of the allegations and he said that they were made up in order to _____ him and _____ the people. (vv. 8-9a)

* What was Nehemiah's spiritual response to all of the slander and scare tactics? (v. 9b)

C. The Wicked Plot to DECEIVE Nehemiah (6:10-14)

1. A false prophet by the name of Shemaiah _____ to have received a prophecy from God; he _____ to _____ Nehemiah on entering the temple with him to seek safety. (v. 10, cf. Num. 1:51; 3:10; 18:7)

2. Nehemiah was _____ easily _____, even when there were death threats; basically, he humbly asked, "*Who am I that I would enter the temple of God?*" (v. 11)

3. The governor had the _____ discernment to see through all of their wicked plans (vv. 12-13), and he did what he always did when he needed wisdom, _____ (v. 14).

* What can you personally apply today from this passage?