

Battle & Build

Good Riddance

Pastor Brad Howard - August 13, 2023

Nehemiah 6:1-3 NLT

Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained--though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, so I replied by sending this message to them: "I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?"

HOW TO SHUT OUT EVERYTHING THAT'S KEEPING YOU FROM GOD'S BEST:

FIRST: SAY YES TO GOD.

Matthew 6:33 NKJV

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

"If you are always responding to the urgent, you'll never have enough time for what's most important."

"Your success is not measured by how much you do, but by how much of what you do really matters."

"You've gotta keep control of your time and you can't unless you say no. You can't let people set your agenda in life." -Warren Buffet

SECOND: SAY YES TO FAMILY.

Nehemiah 4:14 NIV

After "... Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families ..."

1 Timothy 5:8 AMP

If anyone fails to provide for his own, and especially for those of his own family, he has denied the faith [by disregarding its precepts] and is worse than an unbeliever [who fulfills his obligation in these matters].

Psalms 92:13 NKJV

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

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LAST: SAY NO TO THE ENEMY.

• RUMORS AND LIES

Nehemiah 6:5-6, 8 NLT

The fifth time, Sanballat's servant came with an open letter in his hand, and this is what it said: "There is a rumor among the surrounding nations, and Geshem tells me it is true, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king." I replied, "There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing."

• INTIMIDATION AND SIN

Nehemiah 6:9, 13 NLT

They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination. ... They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin...

Titus 2:11-12 NIV

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,