

SERMON - Josh Jordan

DATE: Sunday, March 2-3, 2019

SERIES TITLE: STEADFAST: *Joining God in the Work of Building His Kingdom*

SERMON TITLE: Steadfast to Finish Strong

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 6:1-16

[1] Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates),

[2] Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm.

[3] And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

[4] And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

[5] In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand.

[6] In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king.

[7] And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together."

[8] Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind."

[9] For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

[10] Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night."

[11] But I said, "Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in."

[12] And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

[13] For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me a bad name in order to taunt me.

[14] Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid.

[15] So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

[16] And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

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Nehemiah 6:1-4

The enemy has a strategy and the strategy is always going to come in the form of temptation.

1. Nehemiah was tempted to be distracted

- You cannot reason with the enemy.
- We are to flee the enemy not make deals with him.
- ***John 8:44*** *He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
- Temptation rarely comes calling one time.
- Temptation usually comes when things are going well.

Nehemiah 6:5-9

2. Nehemiah was tempted by self-preservation.

- ***Isaiah 41:10*** *So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*
- Are you allowing the Lord to uphold you, or are you trying to do it on your own?
- The call to follow Jesus is one of dying to yourself.

Nehemiah 6:10-14

3. Nehemiah was tempted to take cowardly alternatives.

- Am I going to make this decision based on fear of man?
- Does this contradict what God has already told me to do?

Nehemiah 6:15-16

Nehemiah remained steadfast, not because he was great, but because God did the work in him.

Lagniappe

The Journey to Golgotha - We all need to make this journey.

Beginning next Sunday, we will begin a new sermon series entitled "The Journey to Golgotha."

The messages will be taken from The Gospel of Mark, which may have been the earliest written of the four gospels, and it is certainly the briefest.

Many believe - with justification - that Mark's main source was Simon Peter. As you read this gospel carefully, you begin to see why so many biblical scholars think Simon Peter is in the background of its production.

Mark's Gospel only has 16 chapters, and 6 of them deal with the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry. Like all of the gospels, Mark saw the necessity and the absolute importance of Jesus' sacrificial death and His resurrection from the dead.

There could be no gospel without Jesus' sacrificial death. In this sermon series, will explore many of the events of Jesus' last week. And, we will seek to live those events for ourselves as we look at the Scripture and allow it to touch our lives.

We all need to make the Journey to Golgotha. Please plan to join us each weekend as we explore the Gospel of Mark.