the TAKE HOME 05.08.16

Today's Scripture Passage: Nehemiah 6:1-19 page 345-346 Pew Bible

6 When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of
our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though
up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates— 2 Sanballat and
Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the
villages[a] on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; 3 so I
sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project
and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down
to you?" 4 Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave
them the same answer. 5 Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me
with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter 6 in which
was written: "It is reported among the nations—and Geshem[b] says it is
true—that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are
building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to
become their king 7 and have even appointed prophets to make this
proclamation about you in Jerusalem: 'There is a king in Judah!' Now this
report will get back to the king; so come, let us meet together." 8 I sent him
this reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just
making it up out of your head." 9 They were all trying to frighten us, thinking,
"Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed."
But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands." 10 One day I went to the house of
Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his
home. He said, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let
us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night
they are coming to kill you." 11 But I said, "Should a man like me run away?
Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!"
12 I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against
me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. 13 He had been hired to
intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they
would give me a bad name to discredit me. 14 Remember Tobiah and
Sanballat, my God, because of what they have done; remember also the
prophet Noadiah and how she and the rest of the prophets have been trying
to intimidate me. 15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in
fifty-two days. 16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding
nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that
this work had been done with the help of our God. 17 Also, in those days the
nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from
Tobiah kept coming to them. 18 For many in Judah were under oath to him,
since he was son-in-law to Shekaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan
had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. 19 Moreover, they
kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And
Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

Questions:

1. Why did Nehemiah refuse to meet Sanballat, Tobiah and Gesham on a village on the plain of Ono?
2. What made "building the walls" a great work?
3. Are you engaged in 'a great work'? What is it?
4. How many strategies to stop Nehemiah's 'great work' in this chapter do you find? What are they? Which poses the greatest threat to you and your 'great work'?
5. In Ephesians 3:2-3 are listed the three enemy sources of our righteous living: the world, the devil and the flesh. Which of these do you think the enemies of Nehemiah represent, and how do we prevail against them?

Prayer:

1. The Pastoral Search Team
2. Praise for the work done on our grounds and for those who did it for the Glory of God.
3. The Lima Family (Cledson, Ruteneia and Danielly) returning to minister from Hawaii. Ariel and Michael will remain here in NE.
4. Our missionaries.
5. Our families.

Sermon Notes