

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE – Nehemiah 6:1-14
Lesson 9

I. The fourth phase of opposition

“People in spiritual leadership not only have the pressures that all leaders face, but they must also battle an infernal Enemy who is a master deceiver and a murderer.”

Warren Wiersbe

- A. The attacks were subtle.
- B. The attacks were aimed at Nehemiah.

“When Sanballat had his co-conspirators realize that they have been outmaneuvered, outgeneral, and outwitted by Nehemiah, they decide to attack him personally...”

Cyril J. Barber

- 1. The attacks **begin** slowly and **intensify**.
- 2. The attacks are **aimed** at the **leader**.

II. Three stages of the final assault

A. Conspiracy

- 1. A call to **confer**
- 2. Characteristics of **leadership**
 - a. An ability to say **“no”**
 - b. An ability to **discern** with **wisdom**

“His (Nehemiah) ability to see the issues clearly and stand firm under pressure safeguarded him from succumbing to the wiles of his adversaries.”

Cyril J. Barber

B. Slander

- 1. Spreading **innuendos**
- 2. Characteristics of **leadership**
 - a. **Denying** a rumor
 - b. **Going** to God

“Personal security...comes from our relationship to the three Persons of the Godhead. Our relationship to God the Father gives us a sense of belonging. Our union with Christ the Son gives us a sense of worth. The Holy Spirit’s indwelling empowers us.” Maurice E. Wagner

C. Threats

- 1. Attacks on his **life**
- 2. Characteristics of **leadership**
 - a. Not succumbing to **compromise**
 - b. Knowing God’s **ways**

III. Characteristics of Nehemiah’s success

“But the question to precede all others, which finally determines the course of our lives is, ‘What do I really want?’ Was it to love what God commands, in the words of the collect, and to desire what He promises? Did I want what I wanted, or did I want what He wanted, no matter what it might cost?” Elisabeth Elliot

- A. Nehemiah had a **relationship** with God.
- B. Nehemiah knew his **call**.
- C. Nehemiah understood **himself**.
- D. Nehemiah had great **courage**.