

Restoring the Broken  
Nehemiah 6  
Distractions

Vision

Courage Perseverance

Integrity

1. Distraction by \_\_\_\_\_ – vs. 1-4

Definition of distraction:

Something that prevents you from giving full attention to something else

People don't jump off a precipice – it is usually a slow leak that destroys a life.

Nehemiah developed discernment.

Knowledge deals with learning \_\_\_\_\_,

Discernment is concerned with \_\_\_\_\_ the knowledge correctly.

Floodwaters can be very damaging.

Destroy \_\_\_\_\_

Swamp smells and is filled with decay.

Corrupt \_\_\_\_\_

Distractions are given to move us away from the excellent. Sometimes, Satan will promote the "good" if it keeps us from the excellent – making good evil!

What did Nehemiah say in his discernment?

"I am doing a great work and cannot come down."

1. He didn't attack their motives.
2. He didn't question their sincerity.
3. He didn't give in.

Notice that they came 4 times!

Compromise never gives up! It doesn't stop after one try. It keeps coming.

We tend to live under two agenda's –  
ours and God's and that tension brings \_\_\_\_\_.

I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down!

1. What is distracting you from your walk with God?
2. What are you doing to grow in discernment?

2. Distraction by \_\_\_\_\_ crushing – vs. 5-9

2.1. How to distract in character crushing.

2.1.1. Listen to \_\_\_\_\_ – vs. 6

Gossip – talking about somebody to someone else who is not part of the solution.

2.1.2. Make a false statement that sounds like truth and repeat it enough to “be truth.”

2.1.3. Pose a \_\_\_\_\_ that could ruin your character, career or life.

2.2. How to handle character crushing:

People can hurt your reputation but only you can destroy your character.

2.2.1. He spoke \_\_\_\_\_. – vs. 8

2.2.2. He redirected the blame – vs. 8

2.2.3. He took his \_\_\_\_\_ to God. – vs. 9

3. Distraction by a \_\_\_\_\_ – vs. 10-14

Hypocrites, Frauds, Phonies, Double minded, and pretenders. Whited sepulcher.

Nehemiah used discernment in verse 13.

1. He discerned that God would not ask to him to leave a job \_\_\_\_\_.

2. He discerned that God would not ask him to violate His law.

It is always wrong to do \_\_\_\_\_ and is it always right to do \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Distraction by the \_\_\_\_\_ – vss. 17-19

Peer pressure is an easy distraction even for many of us that are older.

Christian culture wars and church traditions are valued more than truth.

5. Distractions destroyed!

5.1. They finished the job.

5.2. The tables were turned – their enemies lost confidence

5.3. God was glorified.

Application:

Distractions can be:

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Subtle – vs. 2            | Nehemiah              |
| 2. Persistent – vs. 4        | A. He Didn't Give Up  |
| 3. Intimidating – vs. 5      | B. He Didn't Give In  |
| 4. Outright lies – vs. 6     | C. He Didn't Give Out |
| 5. From friends – vss. 10-13 |                       |
| 6. Pressure – vs. 19         |                       |

Nehemiah 2:4	So I prayed to the God of heaven.	Vision
Nehemiah 2:18	So they put their hands to the good work.	Courage
Nehemiah 4:6	So we built the wall	Perseverance
Nehemiah 4:21	So we carried on the work	Integrity
Nehemiah 6:15	So the wall was completed	Distractions destroyed

What is distracting you from restoring the broken in your life?

1. Distraction by Compromise
2. Distraction by Character crushing
3. Distraction by a Counterfeiter
4. Distraction by the Crowd

#### What I Learned From Dad

Today I will not allow myself to be drug down by the opinions of others. I will not let myself come down to their level to see things through those same cynical eyes. I will not contemptuously question their decisions nor pass judgment on their rulings. I will not allow others criticism to cut away at the under-girding of my personal convictions, nor will I criticize those who do not share those same convictions. I will not give in to the self-pity and self-indulgence granted me by the ignorant. I will not expect praise when it is due, but I will cautiously listen to criticism whenever it is given... warranted or not! I will not withdraw from taking chances no matter how many times in a row I have failed, nor will I allow myself to be molded and shaped into a box by others because it makes them feel more comfortable. In short, I will live as a lover of Christ and His praise, not man and his flattery. And whenever I am criticized unduly, questioned unfairly, distrusted unreasonable and condescended to unnecessarily my response will be the same as the servant Nehemiah's was, that I am doing a great work and CANNOT COME DOWN!!!! Caleb Calhoun

"I am doing a great work and cannot come down."