

YOU CAN MAKE  
**A DIFFERENCE**  
LIFE LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH

**Part 9 – Tough Times Don't Last – Tough People Do**  
**Nehemiah 6:1-19**

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I. LET EXTERNAL PRESSURE **DRIVE** YOU CLOSER TO GOD. (Nehemiah 6)

A. Nehemiah was a prayer-addict. His **first response** to everything was to pray.

*Luke 18:1 "Jesus told his disciples that they should always pray and not give up."*

B. What did Nehemiah receive from God when he prayed?

1. He received **encouragement** to keep going.

*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."*

2. He received direction and **wisdom** from God.

*James 1:5 "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives freely to all who ask..."*

a. Wisdom is the ability to know what **God would do** about one of our problems or questions.

b. What does wisdom do for us?

3. Wisdom gives us the ability to discern the **most important** choice.

4. Wisdom gives us the **ability** to choose the right thing after we have discovered it.

*Psalm 18:28-29 “You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. [29] With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.”*

- II. REFUSE TO BE **DERAILED** FROM DOING WHAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO. (Nehemiah 6:2-3)

*Know what the goal is and keep your eye on that goal **no matter what**.*

- III. BE WISE AS A **SERPENT** AND HARMLESS AS A **DOVE**. (Nehemiah 6:1-13)

*Matthew 10:16 “...Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”*

*1 Corinthians 16:9 (NLT) “...for there is a wide-open door for a great work here, and many people are responding. But there are many who oppose me.”*

- A. When you attempt any great thing for God, you will face great opposition. Why?
  1. Your vision represents a change and that change will force some person or persons out of their **comfort zone**.
  2. There is such a thing as **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**.

*Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

- B. The schemes of the opposition which came against Nehemiah.

1. Come and let’s get together for a **little fellowship**. (With a knife behind their back.) (Nehemiah 6:1-2)
2. We’ll **lie** about you and get others to turn on you. (Nehemiah 6:5-9)

*Here is a leadership principle: When you know God has led you in a task and is blessing you, just **keep working** no matter how much the opposition rails against you.*

3. We’ve hired someone to kill you. You had better **run**. (Nehemiah 6:10-13)

