

Living Water Fellowship

12th Sunday after Pentecost

15th August 2021

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION DO IT AGAIN (ELEVATION WORSHIP) [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=0B_LNqIITxU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_LNqIITxU)

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

LITANY ON GOD'S WORD: SELECTED VERSES (PSALMS & JESUS) READ RESPONSIVELY

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal...Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"

Every earthly security fails, fades, flees or is forgotten. All the promises of this world end at the grave.

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and his gift of righteousness, and he will give you everything you need."

"Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken."

"My victory and honour come from God alone.

He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me."

"O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge."

"Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear."

God says, "I will break the strength of the wicked, but I will increase the power of the godly."

"Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple."

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Nehemiah 6:1-19

FAITH CHAT:

SONG: *Jesus Shall Reign*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE4DDB5whyk&list=RDBE4DDB5whyk&start_radio=1

THE MESSAGE: ROAD TO RECOVERY: RESIST DISTRACTION

PRAYERS:

The Communion:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: I Need Thee Ev'ry Hour (Fernando Ortega)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58e9meQDbSg>

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† _____, (Name), † child of God, may Christ hold the focus of your living
and the desire of your heart!**

Amen.

Announcements:

SONG: *Breakthrough (Red Rocks Worship)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ni5_JGRqgs

SHOW HIS LOVE

NEHEMIAH 6:1-19

¹ Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, & the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall & that no gaps remained—though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. ² So Sanballat & Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, ³ so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come & meet with you?”

⁴ Four times they sent the same message, & each time I gave the same reply. ⁵ The fifth time, Sanballat’s servant came with an open letter in his hand, ⁶ & this is what it said: “There is a rumor among the surrounding nations, & Geshem tells me it is true, that you & the Jews are planning to rebel & that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king. ⁷ He also reports that you have appointed prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim about you, ‘Look! There is a king in Judah!’ “You can be very sure that this report will get back to the king, so I suggest that you come & talk it over with me.”

⁸ I replied, “There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing.” ⁹ They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us & stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination. But I prayed, “Now O God, strengthen my hands.”

¹⁰ Later I went to visit Shemaiah son of Delaiah & grandson of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home. He said, “Let us meet together inside the Temple of God & bolt the doors shut. Your enemies are coming to kill you tonight.” ¹¹ But I replied, “Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won’t do it!” ¹² I realized that God had not spoken to him, but that he had uttered this prophecy against me because Tobiah & Sanballat had hired him. ¹³ They were hoping to intimidate me & make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse & discredit me.

¹⁴ Remember, O my God, all the evil things that Tobiah & Sanballat have done. And remember Noadiah the prophet & all the prophets like her who have tried to intimidate me.

¹⁵ So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. ¹⁶ When our enemies & the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened & humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

¹⁷ During those fifty-two days, many letters went back & forth between Tobiah & the nobles of Judah. ¹⁸ For many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him because his father-in-law was Shecaniah son of Arah, & his son Jehohanan was married to the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ They kept telling me about Tobiah’s good deeds, & then they told him everything I said. And Tobiah kept sending threatening letters to intimidate me.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Nehemiah 6:1-19. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find most important in this text? Why?
2. Why do we sometimes not finish the good things we start? To what do you need to say “No” so the work of becoming more like Christ & living his mission in this city can move toward fulfillment in you?
3. According to this passage, what three types of deceptions did the enemies of God’s people use to try & stop the construction of the wall? What did Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem use as a last ditch effort to thwart the work being completed? What was their false claim? Why did all of these fail? If you were Nehemiah, how do you think you would have withstood this onslaught? Why?
4. If Nehemiah had been planning a “secret” revolt against Artaxerxes, & that “secret” had been made public, what would have happened to the people who had returned to Jerusalem & rebuilt the wall? How is fear an effective weapon against God’s people & godly work? Go back & read Neh 4:7-13. How might this passage help us understand how Nehemiah knew Sanballat was inventing these rumors?
5. What are some ways you might be tempted to give in to pressure or intimidation instead of putting accomplishing God’s will & God’s work first?
6. Verse 9 is interesting. The Hebrew of the text is hard to translate into a single English understanding. The word “intimidate” could also be “frighten.” Quickly scan the remaining verses to note the other uses of that word. Why do you think Nehemiah makes a repeated effort to say his enemies were desperate for him & the workers to be “intimidated/frightened”? What happens when we get on with the work God has given us & refuse to give in to fear? Read Jas 4:7 & 2 Tim 2:21-23. What else do you note here that is part of God’s equipping us to accomplish his mission?
7. Note also in verse 9 that Nehemiah stops the retelling of the events for a quick prayer. How is his prayer connected to what his enemies are doing? Note his prayer is immediate, specific, & effective. Do you ever pray like that? Why/not?
8. What do you notice in the repeated & relentless attacks on Nehemiah & the work he was called by God to accomplish?
9. When people gossip, slander, or mock us how should we respond? How should we answer them?
10. What else do you notice in the final verses of Chapter 6 that would be heartbreaking for Nehemiah, & you if you were in a similar circumstance? What can we learn there? How again here is 1 Peter 5:8 a clear word from God? How do you live out that command?