



Working With the Right People (Part 4)
Nehemiah 6:1–16 (NKJV)

November 16-17, 2019

Big Question: Who are you working with?

**I. Make Sure You Are Not Working
With the Wrong People
(Make Sure They Are Not Hindering You)**

1. Identify the People Who Hinder You

- 6 Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our **enemies** heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), 2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they thought to do me harm.

2. Identify The People and Issues That Distract You From Your Work

- 3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, “**I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down.** Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”

3. Identify The Tactics Being Used to Hinder You

- 4 But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner. 5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand.
- 6 In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that **you and the Jews plan to rebel**; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, **that you may be their king.** 7 And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, “There is a king in Judah!” Now **these matters will be reported to the king.** So come, therefore, and let us consult together. 8 Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart.”
- 9 For **they all were trying to make us afraid**, saying, “Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.” Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.
- 10 Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, “**Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple**, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you.” 11 And I said, “**Should such a man as I flee?** And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!” 12 **Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.** 13 For this reason, he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, **so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me**
 - They tell lies that tie up your soul (“you and the Jews plan to rebel”)
 - They try to make you afraid (“These matters will be reported to the king”)
 - They try to make you shame your name



4. Ignore Those Who Hinder You and Finish Your Assignment

- 14 My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid. 15 So **the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days.** 16 And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.

Closing:

II. How I Ended Up Working With the Right People

- I broadened **my circle** of relationships
- I worked to **be the kind of person that** I wanted to work with
- I give myself a **license** to be honest about what I see in people
- I reached for people who **had** what I wanted in their lives

Next Time: What Team Are You On?

Series Thought: Some families, churches, businesses, cultures, and nations will never see their full potential because they don't team well together. Does your family give, serve, and fight well together? How well do you play with others? This series will help us get ready to build a new future. Getting on the right path is one thing, building and prospering long-term is another.