

Point Group Notes

Message from 10/06/24

Getting to know you...

1. Have you ever been followed by a fortune teller who was yelling.... JUST KIDDING!
Have you ever had to deal with an IMPOSSIBLE stranger in public? What was that like?
How did you handle it?
2. How do you typically handle interruptions in your life? With anger? Joy? Indifference?
Why is that your immediate reaction?

Quick Review – Have a look at your sermon notes from last week. What stood out to you the most? Did you learn anything new? Did anything said leave you with any questions?

Digging Deeper...

This passage in Acts is an excellent example of how the enemy sometimes uses people with their agendas to interrupt *our* lives and plans. Further, it shows us that God is still faithful and can turn an interruption caused by the enemy into a praise break that will bless everyone within earshot! This week, we will be looking at a man attempting to carry out a MASSIVE plan from the Lord and how he responded to opposition, interruptions, and frustrations as he tried to remain faithful to God's call.

Nehemiah 4:7-15 ESV

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. ¹⁰ In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." ¹¹ And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." ¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." ¹³ So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." ¹⁵ When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work.



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1. Sanballat was a local Governor in Samaria who was **not** a friend of the Jewish people. V.8 says that Sanballat worked to cause confusion. In verses 10-12, we see examples of people causing that confusion. What was the primary method of confusion? What were the people *doing* to try and interrupt the people building the wall?
2. In v.9, we see Nehemiah and the people *pray*, and in v.13-14, we see him *do*. How is that similar to our passage this week in Acts 16? Both passages show us that faith and action have a significant role as we follow the plans God has set out for us. Put yourself in Nehemiah's shoes... What do you think would have been the most difficult for you? Having faith or taking steps to move forward?
3. In case you missed it, V10-12 details three separate communities of people coming to the builders, trying to discourage them with their words and telling them that the work was impossible or dangerous. How would the average ancient wall builder have felt with all this commotion around them?

Taking it Home...

1. The enemy works by discouraging our hearts and isolating us from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Nehemiah encouraged his people and made them stand together. How can you see Point Harbor applying these truths as we embark on "25 by 35?"
2. Personally, how do you see the enemy attack? How can your point group encourage you? How can they come around you?
3. What do you think our community would look like if, when oppressed, we prayed (v9), stood together (v13), and moved on (v15)?
4. How can your Point Group be praying for you?

