

Study Guide: From The Sermon: “Finish What You Started”

Based on Nehemiah 6:14-16

Introduction: The Challenge of Finishing Well

Starting a task is easy, but finishing requires focus, faith, and perseverance. In Nehemiah 6, Nehemiah faces opposition right as he’s on the verge of completing the wall. This opposition teaches us that the closer we get to finishing something meaningful, the more the enemy tries to derail us with distractions, doubt, and fear. Let’s explore how we can overcome these obstacles and finish the work God has given us.

Section 1: Staying Focused on the Mission

Key Scripture:

"I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down." (Nehemiah 6:3)

The enemy tried to stop Nehemiah by distracting him. Sanballat and Geshem invited him to meet in the plains of Ono, hoping to divert him from completing the wall. But Nehemiah discerned the distraction and refused to step away from his mission. Not every invitation is worth accepting, and not every opportunity is aligned with God’s purpose for us.

Reflection Questions:

1. What “good” opportunities or invitations are currently distracting you from what God has called you to do?
2. How do you determine whether an opportunity is a distraction or part of God’s plan?
3. What boundaries do you need to set to stay focused on your mission?

Action Step:

This week, identify one distraction that is pulling you away from your mission and make a commitment to say “no” to it. Stay focused on what God has placed in your hands.

Section 2: Overcoming Doubt and Deception

Key Scripture:

"Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head."
(Nehemiah 6:8)

When distractions didn't work, Nehemiah's enemies resorted to spreading false rumors, trying to sow doubt and fear. Doubt clouds our confidence, while deception distorts the truth. The enemy's goal is to weaken our hands and make us give up. Nehemiah resisted by staying rooted in truth and asking God to strengthen his hands.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are there any lies or doubts you've believed that are holding you back from finishing your task?
2. How do you respond when others spread false information about you or your intentions?
3. What truth from God's Word can you cling to when doubt creeps in?

Action Step:

When you feel discouraged this week, pray Nehemiah's prayer: "Now strengthen my hands." Identify a Scripture verse that speaks truth over your situation and meditate on it when doubts arise.

Section 3: Conquering Fear with Faith

Key Scripture:

"Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

In a final attempt to derail the mission, Nehemiah's enemies tried to instill fear, hoping he would flee and abandon the work. Fear paralyzes progress and detours us from our destiny. However, Nehemiah chose faith over fear, trusting that God's presence was with him every step of the way.

Reflection Questions:

1. What fears are holding you back from completing the task God has given you?
2. How can you remind yourself that God's presence is with you in moments of fear?

3. When fear arises, how can you lean on God's promises to strengthen your faith?

Action Step:

This week, write down a fear that has been holding you back. Pray for God's strength to move forward in faith, and take a small step toward finishing the work He has placed before you.

Closing Reflection: Faith to Finish

Nehemiah's story reminds us that finishing requires more than just effort—it demands focus, faith, and reliance on God. Even when distractions, doubt, and fear arise, we can stay the course by trusting in God's power and purpose. When we persevere, God's glory shines through, and even those who oppose us will see that His hand is upon our work.

Final Questions:

1. What is one task or project that you need to finish but have been struggling with?
2. How can you apply the principles of focus, faith, and courage to complete it?
3. How can you celebrate small victories along the way to stay motivated?

Challenge for the Week:

This week, focus on completing one unfinished task in your life. Pray for God's guidance, stay committed to your mission, and take intentional steps toward the finish line.