

**Speaker:** Associate Pastor David Seah

**Title** : Diabolical Distraction

**Text** : Nehemiah 6:3

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## **Introduction**

While God may interrupt our carefully planned lives, so that He can offer us a better life, the enemy of our soul employs the same method to bring harm & destruction.

Nehemiah 6: 1- 4 says - When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it - though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates - <sup>2</sup> Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; <sup>3</sup> so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" <sup>4</sup> Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

The enemy unleashed his diabolical distraction. From day one, the enemy attempted to stop Nehemiah's endeavors. Continuous threats were issued from chapter 2 to chapter 6.

The enemy seeks to waste our life. A distracted life is a wasted life.

## **Diabolical Distraction in Work**

We can be distracted, whether we are an employer, an employee or a student.

When we are distracted, we are unable to identify, let alone attain, that which is valuable at work. We find ourselves putting in more effort, but getting fewer results. This degree of interruption is correlated with stress and frustration. When frustration increases, creativity decreases.

If we are not discerning, not only we can have distractions at our job, but that our job can be a distraction to our family life.

## **Diabolical Distraction in Parenting**

Many are distracted from their parental responsibilities.

Although we do so for a variety of reasons, one of the most notable is that our job has measureable rewards. But at home, the rewards of family relationships are less distinct.

We may justify the little time spent with our children because we feel the duty of provision.

The enemy seeks to distract us as parents from what is truly important - our children's character & spiritual development.

But the Sanballat of our day entice us: "Come; let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." In other words, "Forget your family. Ignore your children. Let your role be relieved by the maid, their peers, the school, the media & the church."

## **Diabolical Distraction in Marriage**

Marriages come under greatest attack today.

Husbands & wives succumbed to the dark age of marriage. We depend more and more on black-and-white thinking, on surface conversation that lead to superficial relationship.

The possibility of an attention-deficient hyper-active marriage is sobering. It is characterized by much activity, but has no depth.

This is because we fail to recognize that we play a unique role no one else can fill. The emotional support we bring is irreplaceable. Someone else can be hired to take our place at the office. But no one can fill our shoes in our marriage.

Perhaps we started the journey of our marriage well.

But a long the way, we allow diabolical distraction to rob us of the deep ecstasy and rich fulfillment that can only be experienced through a focused marriage.

## **Respond to Diabolical Distractions**

So, how do we respond to diabolical distractions? Learn to:

i. Organize

Nehemiah assigned small groups of naturally related workers to labor on specific parts of the wall. (Nehemiah 3)

ii. Reduce

Nehemiah took protective measures, assigning half of his men to the round-the-clock guard duty. "From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half was equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor." (Nehemiah 4:16)

iii. Say no

"I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down." (Nehemiah 6:3)

- Honour the boundaries of marriage & family.
- Be firm with work intrusions.

## **Conclusion**

This message challenges us to:

- Rediscover God's call
- Reprioritize our lives

"So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup> When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God" (Nehemiah 6: 15-16).

As a result, social & political system was established. Spiritual reformation took place. God was glorified among the nations!