

Oxford Baptist Church – Oct 18, 2015 Pastor Robin W. Pifer
Nehemiah Series – “Building to Transform”

Scripture: Nehemiah 6:1-14

“When the Opposition Gets Personal”

“When God does great things through his people, you can expect that you will face personal opposition.”

Matt 5:11-12; Psalm 119:71

What kind of opposition will we face?

- **People who are enemies of the Cross of Christ. Phil 3:18**
- **Satan and Demonic Forces. 1Peter 5:8-9**
- **The World. James 4:4-10**
- **Ourselves, the Flesh, the Sinful Nature. Romans 8:5-10**
- **Friendly Fire or Well-intentioned Dragons.**
- **The Year of the LORD’s Favour — Isaiah 61:1-4; Jesus quotes from these verses.... Luke 4:17-19**

The 1st Scheme: Assassination (6:1-4) – Intrigue

The 2nd Scheme: Slander (6:5-9) – Innuendo

1Cor 5:11; 1Cor 6:9-11

The 3rd Scheme: Treachery (6:10-14) - Intimidation

What does the Lord teach us through Nehemiah’s experience and example so that we might be able to face personal opposition?

- 1) Stick to Your God-given priorities v. 3**
- 2) Speaks the Truth against Misinformation. v.8**
- 3) Strengthen Your Resolve by Prayer v. 9, 14**
Hebrews 12:3
- 4) Stay True to the Word of God. V. 12**
- 5) Stand Firm and Victory will come! V. 15-16**

Jonathan Edwards said, “Resolved: that all men should live for the Glory of God. Resolved Second: That whether others do or not, I will!!!!”

Christians under the Lordship of Jesus Christ have always been Dragon slayers....

- **When attacked by a dragon do not become one yourself. Romans 12:17-19 (NLT)**
- **Remember God will take Care of the Dragons. Romans 12:19**
- **Prayer and Love Slays Dragons. 2Tim 2:24 (NLT) Romans 12:20 (NIV)**
- **Dragons need to be forgiven and forgotten so you will not become bitter. “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing!!!” Nehemiah says, “Lord you remember them.”**
- **Tame a Dragon by Gentle and Direct Instruction. 2Tim 4:2**
- **Dealing with leaders and Triangulation. Matt 5:23-26; Matt 7:1-5; Matt 18:15-20; 1Tim 5:19-20**

Life Group Questions and Personal Application.

- 1. When you face opposition what is your normal reaction?**
- 2. How have you had dragon tendencies toward others?**
- 3. Nehemiah is attacked personally, in what ways does our modern society attack its leaders? Is it different or do we just use the same method with a new tool?**
- 4. What Biblical practices are important for us to be dragon slayers rather than dragon creators in the local church?**
- 5. How does Nehemiah practically give over to God the dragons that are attacking him? How would this bring him peace and relief?**
- 6. What are some ways we can prevent “friendly fire” from injuring or destroying one another?**
- 7. What stands out to you the most about how Nehemiah deals with personal opposition?**