

“Focused Hearts”

Nehemiah 6:1-19

The wall has reached the brink of completion in Jerusalem
 While there is much to celebrate, the challenges remain relentless
 There is a “ _____ ” temptation to give up under the pressure
 Nehemiah and the covenant community remain committed – on task-- _____
 Kingdom focus is a central theme of the Christian life

I. Dangers to Kingdom focus

- A. The danger of _____
 The good may be the _____ of the best, if it distracts us from it.
 Distraction results in sins of _____
- B. The danger of discouragement
 The _____ of courage with fear
- C. The danger of (unnecessary) fear
“For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.” [9a]

II. Some focus on focus

Nehemiah is focused on – is _____ on--the strength and resolve of another!

- A. Prayer: specific focus and attention
“But now, O God, strengthen my hands.” [9b]
“The God of heaven will make us prosper.” [Nehemiah 2:20a]
“On the day I called, you answered me; you made me bold and _____” [Psalm 138:3, NIV]
- B. The _____ of focus
 We are likely to pull back from _____ when our convictions are vague
“I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to.”
 [Acts 13:22]
 1. The Apostle Paul’s _____ focus – *“This one thing I do”* [Philippians 3: 13b]
 2. Live life before an Audience of One
- C. Courage is _____ focus
- D. Focus is a _____

III. The Focus

Jesus is the true _____ --“the King of kings and Lord of lords”
 The powers of evil did not distract Him from His focus
 We _____ our eyes on Jesus
 The Lord’s Supper is a place of unique focus.

*“It is the Lord who goes before you.
 He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you.
 Do not fear or be dismayed.”*
 [Deuteronomy 31:8]