

## Message: ***"When You're Afraid"***

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 6:1-19

(11-09-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

Do you plan to live for God? Do you endeavor to do great things for God? Expect to be intimidated. Nehemiah's call to rebuild wall of Jerusalem was simple enough. But not everyone is happy about it. They did everything to stop him. *"Intimidate"* is defined as *"to frighten; to terrify; to fill with fear through the force of personality or superior display of strength, wealth, or talent."* Using the art of intimidation, Nehemiah's enemies seem determined to bring him down. They include the following:

**Set Distractions/Diversions** (6:1-4). *'You're missing out. Don't you want us as friends. Join us. You work too hard.'* Nehemiah's response? *'My work is very important. There's serious consequence to leave.'* **Spread Rumors/Lies** (6:5-9) Nature of rumors: unknown source; filled with exaggeration and inaccuracy; meant to hurt and harm. How do you deal with it? Be wise: Is it necessary? Be accurate: Is it correct? Is it complete? Be concerned: Will it benefit? Will it solve problems? **Stir Fear/Anxiety** (6:10-16) Effect of fear? Paralyzed; Terrified; Can't do anything. Nehemiah's response: Resist selfishness; Remember God's provision. **Send Threats/Warnings** (6:17-19) It was to destabilize and discredit. Nehemiah's response? Keep working. Keep praying.

Peter's exhortation is appropriate during these challenging times (1 Pet 3:14-16): *But in your hearts **revere Christ as Lord**. Always **be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **keeping a clear conscience**, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

### **GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)**

1. What horror movie, murder mystery or drama-in-real life has really frightened you? What was so frightening about it?
2. What does the proposed meeting in chapter 6 purport to be? Why does Nehemiah suspect otherwise? Even if it were sincere or well-intentioned, how does Nehemiah not let the 'good' get in the way of the 'best'?
3. How do you distinguish between what is God's will and the words of a misguided person? How will you handle slander?