

## Nehemiah 6:1-19, "The Schemes of the Devil" 9/3/23

### Introduction

#### 4 Schemes of the Devil (not exhaustive!) (Cyril & Barber)

- 6:1-4, Intrigue
- 6:5-9, Innuendo
- 6:10-14, Intimidation
- 6:15-19, Infiltration

#### 6:1-4, Scheme #1: Intrigue

Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*. "To present the bait & hide the hook; to present the golden cup, & hide the poison; to present the sweet, the pleasure, and the profit that may flow in upon the soul by yielding to sin, and by hiding from the soul the wrath & misery that will certainly follow the committing of sin."

- Fight Intrigue?
  - 1) Keep the main thing the main thing (Great Commandment/Great Commission living)
  - 2) Be wise as serpents

#### 6:5-9, Scheme #2: Innuendo

Charles Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*, "The Blind Eye & the Deaf Ear," "You cannot stop people's tongues, & therefore the best thing is to stop your own ears & never mind what is spoken ... (yet) we cannot shut our ears as we do our eyes, for we have no ear lids ... Your blameless life will be your best defense, & those who have seen it will not allow you to be condemned so readily as your slanderers expect. Yet there are exceptions to this general rule. When distinct, definite, public charges are made against a man he is bound to answer them, & answer them in the clearest & most open manner. To decline all investigation is in such a case practically to plead guilty, and ... the general public ordinarily regard a refusal to reply as a proof of guilt..."

- Fight innuendo?
  - 1) Defend
  - 2) OR Ignore
  - 3) Above all else take it to the Lord

#### 6:10-14, Scheme #3: Intimidation

1 Jn. 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

- Fight Intimidation?
  - 1) Obey the Word of the Lord
  - 2) Call on the Lord to act

#### 6:15-19, Scheme #4: Infiltration

- Fight Infiltration?
  - Eph. 6:11, "Finally, be strong in the Lord & in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."