

## Daily Devotional, October 1, 2020

### 'Spiritual Perception', (Nehemiah 6:12, NKJV)

*“Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.”* (Nehemiah 6:12)

Nehemiah was going about his business of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, and encouraging the Jews who had returned from exile to follow the Lord in earnest. But there were many adversaries. Among them were Tobiah and Sanballat, and also the false prophet Shemaiah and the false prophetess Noadiah (Nehemiah 6:10-14). These adversaries were doing the devil's bidding, opposing those works which would glorify God. They also wanted to create a situation in which they could make an “evil report” against God's man, by making him act in fear and spotlighting the failure before all, to destroy his reputation, thereby nullifying his work for God's kingdom. If Nehemiah was going to avoid the snares of men, he would have to use some discernment. And so he did. He saw the trap and avoided being caught by it.

Just as Nehemiah was sent out by the Lord for His purposes, so too are we, and we would do well to have some discernment. “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). Who in your life is seeking to hold you back and turn your way from your walk with Jesus Christ your Lord, God, and Savior? Don't let it happen. Don't join the ash heap of Christian has-beens, who will get into heaven by the skin of their teeth and find no rewards there. Observe what people say, what they do, and the company they keep. Listen carefully to their speech, for sooner or later, as was the case in our text, the evil heart will betray the man through his speech. Consider all things, and all the suggestions of other people as to what you should do or how you should do it, in light of God's Word, from which you can know His will for your life. Let the advice of men be filtered through the truth of Scripture.