

Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. Nehemiah 6:2-4 (NIV)

An Assignment

You know that you have received an assignment from me. You know that I have given you work to do for me. You are quite clear that I have asked you to go and do something for me. Do you have any doubts? Do you have any questions? Do you have any concerns? No, I do not have any doubts. Yes, I have questions. Yes, I have concerns. **Let me hear your questions and concerns.** I didn't expect that the work would be so hard. I didn't expect to encounter so much difficulty. I certainly wasn't planning on any opposition. **Did you expect your work to be smooth and easy sailing?** Yes, I might have had that expectation. **Can you tell me why you would have had such an expectation?** No, I cannot. I guess I didn't think things through very carefully. **What do you think now?** I would say that I should have expected the work to be hard and filled with difficulty and even opposition. **Why is that?** You experienced difficulty. You encountered opposition. Why wouldn't I? You were even opposed by those who were your followers. **Has that happened to you?** Have you received what could be called, "friendly fire?" Yes, some of the most surprising and discouraging opposition I have faced has been from your followers, fellow believers and even friends of mine. I have never called the fire, "friendly", however. It has been the most painful. **But you have kept on going. You have kept on doing the work I have given you to do for me.** Yes, that's correct. **That is very good.**

Why is it so important that you have no doubts about the work I have given you to do for me? Knowing that I am doing what you have asked me to do has kept me focused, steadfast and relentless in continuing to do what you have asked of me. I have not let myself become discouraged or distracted. I have not allowed myself to say yes to some good but lesser tasks or opportunities. Day by day, I have kept on task. Day by day, I have relied on you. Day by day, you have made me able to keep on doing your work. You have been with me to help me. You have given me your power and strength. You have kept on working in and through me. For that, I am very thankful. I will keep on doing the assignment you have given to me. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I want to be used by you. I will joyfully go and do whatever you have ask of me. I will not quit. I will not become distracted or sidetracked. I will not leave the work you have given me to do. Give me the energy, strength and power to complete your work. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Project*

Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

NIV Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, so I replied by sending this message to them: "I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?" Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply.

NLT Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to come down to you?" They sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

NRSV Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, Come, let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they intended to do me harm. And I sent messengers to them, saying, I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave to come down to you? They sent to me four times this way, and I answered them as before.

AMP Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono." But they were planning to harm me. So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" They sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way.

NASB Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

ESV Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm. So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?" But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.

NKJV Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

—Sanballat and Geshem sent this message: "Come and meet with us at Kephirim in the valley of Ono." I knew they were scheming to hurt me so I sent messengers back with this: "I'm doing a great work; I can't come down. Why should the work come to a standstill just so I can come down to see you?" Four times they sent this message and four times I gave them my answer.

MSG Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

they sent me a message asking me to meet them in one of the villages in the Plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to kill me, so I replied by sending back this message to them: "I am doing a great work! Why should I stop to come and visit with you?" Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply.

TLB Nehemiah 6:2-4

Becoming Like Christ *A Great Work*

So Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, Nehemiah, let's meet together in Kephirim on the plain of Ono." But they were planning to harm me. So I sent messengers to them with this answer: "I am doing a great work, and I can't come down. I don't want the work to stop while I leave to meet you." Sanballat and Geshem sent the same message to me four times, and each time I sent back the same answer.

NCV Nehemiah 6:2-4

A Great Project

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Nehemiah 6:2-4

In Context: *Read Nehemiah 6*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I want to be used by you. I will joyfully go and do whatever you have ask of me. I will not quit. I will not become distracted or sidetracked. I will not leave the work you have given me to do. Give me the energy, strength and power to complete your work. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you known without a doubt that the Lord has given you a project to do for Him?

What has helped or hindered you from remaining focused on the work the Lord has given you to do?

When have you faced hostile opposition to doing the work the Lord has given you to do?

When have you had to say no to what would have distracted you from continuing to do the Lord's work?

When have significant setbacks made it very difficult for you to continue to do the Lord's work?

When have you noticed that saying yes to good requests might distract you from doing the Lord's work?

How rewarding has it been for you to keep on doing the work that the Lord has given you to do?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Remain focused on going and doing whatever the Lord has asked of you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will give you great projects to go and do for Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have continued to go and do what the Lord has asked of you.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you keep on doing the work the Lord has given you to do.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will keep on doing the work you have given me to do.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you strengthen me to keep on doing your work?
