

# *A Race to the Finish*

*A Study on the Book of Nehemiah*

## **Nehemiah 6:1-16**

### How to Finish Well:

*If you want to finish well...*

#### 1. Keep your focus on the end goal (6:1-3)

Fear of being left out.

Beware of the lure of "new opportunities"

#### 2. Avoid foolish alliances (6:4)

The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior.

Avoid those who are hot heads – dishonest – gossips – liars.

#### 3. Stand on truth and pray (6:5-9)

Fear of being lied about.

Attacks on reputation cause discouragement.

#### 4. Resist "special situation" compromises (6:10-14)

Doing what I normally wouldn't do – just this once!

Stick with God and obey!

*The Race to the Finish\_Part 6... Message by Pastor Jesse E. - (5/6/12).  
Sermon Series: Live for More  
Special thanks to NorthCoastChurch for part of today's outline*

# REALife Application

**QUICK REVIEW** - Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

1. Looking back, what kind of distractions have you found yourself most susceptible to when it comes to losing focus before you've completely finished a big task? We've all struggled at times with the temptation to make a "special situation" compromise. What are some of the most common compromises you've seen other people(or you) make in order to get something important or difficult done?

2. Let's take a closer look at resisting "special situation" compromises by comparing the stories of two people in Scripture, Saul and Jesus. As you read 1 Samuel 15:1-25, what rational did he give for not doing what he was supposed to do? 1 Samuel 15:22-23 reveals Saul failing into the trap of thinking that carrying out a religious ritual made obeying God's clear command in another area unimportant. List some examples of the same kind of thinking today.

3. Just as we saw in Saul's story, the reason "special situation" compromises are so tempting is that they appear to be the solution to a legitimate problem or need. As you read the account of Jesus' temptation, what desires or needs did Satan try to exploit in order to get Jesus to compromise and take the easy way out? Matthew 1:1-4, 4:5-6, 4:8-11.

4. Which of these desires or needs from the verses above would normally have the most pull or create the strongest temptation to compromise in your circle of friends and acquaintances? Which would have the strongest pull in your life?

5. Read Hebrews 2:18 & 4:15. We have just seen that even Jesus battled with temptation of compromise. Are there any issues of subtle compromise you need to stay alert to?

# *A Race to the Finish*

*A Study on the Book of Nehemiah*

## **Nehemiah 6:1-16**

### How to Finish Well:

*If you want to finish well...*

#### 1. Keep your \_\_\_\_\_ on the end goal (6:1-3)

Fear of being \_\_\_\_\_.

Beware of the lure of “\_\_\_\_\_”

#### 2. Avoid foolish \_\_\_\_\_ (6:4)

The best predictor of \_\_\_\_\_ behavior is \_\_\_\_\_ behavior.

Avoid those who are \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_  
– \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 3. Stand on truth and pray (6:5-9)

Fear of being \_\_\_\_\_.

Attacks on \_\_\_\_\_ cause \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4. Resist “special situation” \_\_\_\_\_ (6:10-14)

Doing what I \_\_\_\_\_ – just this once!

Stick with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

*The Race to the Finish\_Part 6... Message by Pastor Jesse E. - (5/6/12).*

*Sermon Series: Live for More*

*Special thanks to NorthCoastChurch for part of today's outline*

# REALife Application

**QUICK REVIEW** - Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

1. Looking back, what kind of distractions have you found yourself most susceptible to when it comes to losing focus before you've completely finished a big task? We've all struggled at times with the temptation to make a "special situation" compromise. What are some of the most common compromises you've seen other people(or you) make in order to get something important or difficult done?

2. Let's take a closer look at resisting "special situation" compromises by comparing ]the stories of two people in Scripture, Saul and Jesus. As you read 1 Samuel 15:1-25, what rational did he give for not doing what he was supposed to do? 1 Samuel 15:22-23 reveals Saul failing into the trap of thinking that carrying out a religious ritual made obeying God's clear command in another area unimportant. List some examples of the same kind of thinking today.

3. Just as we saw in Saul's story, the reason "special situation" compromises are so tempting is that they appear to be the solution to a legitimate problem or need. As you read the account of Jesus' temptation, what desires or needs did Satan try to exploit in order to get Jesus to compromise and take the easy way out? Matthew 1:1-4, 4:5-6, 4:8-11.

4. Which of these desires or needs from the verses above would normally have the most pull or create the strongest temptation to compromise in your circle of friends and acquaintances? Which would have the strongest pull in your life?

5. Read Hebrews 2:18 & 4:15. We have just seen that even Jesus battled with temptation of compromise. Are there any issues of subtle compromise you need to stay alert to?