

Choosing Your Battles Wisely

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BYS Broward County

We don't get caught up in small petty arguments without a goal. Without a spoil. They lead to nowhere. There are many times as believers, we will have to ignore and refuse to get dragged into battles, skirmishes arguments and debates, in order to do HIS will and to keep our eyes on the prize. The prize or the goal.

Before engaging in a battle, ask yourself, what would be the spoil or goal were I to win this battle or argument? Nothing? Stress? Anxiety, insecurity? Lack of energy? Loss of focus? Then do not engage.

This is s.a.tan's plan for all of us, in one way or another. To get you and I sucked into petty debates and arguments trying to prove or justify our position or calling. The fact remains getting sucked into these battles will only take your eye off the ball and in the end, drain you so that the results remain unchanged.

In other words NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU FIGHT AND DEBATE AND PULL YOUR HAIR OUT, not everyone will like you, not everyone will love you not everyone will admire, you not everyone will approve of you, not everyone will be your cheerleader, not everyone will be your friend. They will be there to get you sucked into situations and sidetracked in your life's calling by YHWH. Most people convinced against their will, are of the same opinion still! Let's look at how to handle distractions, waiting to get us fighting small battles with no spoil or goal line. We can get so stressed out over trying to change others or control negative behaviors from others that we lose focus of the prize and calling.

Nehemiah 2

17 Then I said to them, You see the distress that we are in, how Yahrushalayim lies waste, and the gates of it are burned with fire: **come, and let us build up the wall of Yahrushalayim, that we be no more a reproach.**

18 Then I told them of the hand of my Elohim which was tov upon me; and also the melech's words that he had spoken to me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this tov work.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Toviya the eved, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they **laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that you do? Will you rebel against the melech?**

20 Then I answered them, and said to them, The Elohim of the shamayim, He will prosper us; therefore we His avadim will arise and build: but you have no portion, or rights, or memorial, in Yahrushalayim.

Nehemiah, Ezra and the builders' refuses to get caught up in an ongoing debate with their critics. They overcame their critics by staying the course and obeying YHWH. They didn't let the THREATS, despising and ridicule stop them. The best way to answer your critics is to stay focused and keep on building. Chapter 4

4 **But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we built the wall, he was angry, and took great indignation, and mocked the Yahudim.**

2 **And he spoke before his brothers and the army of Shomron, and said, What are these feeble Yahudim doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish that are burned?**

3 **Now Toviya the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Whatever they build, if a fox goes up, even he shall break down their stone wall.**

4 Listen, O our Elohim; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and make them as a prey in a land of captivity:

5 And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before You: for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.

6 **So we built the wall; and the entire wall was joined together up to the half of it: for the people had a mind and lev to work.**

7 **But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Toviya, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Yahrushalayim were being repaired, and that the broken places began to be fixed, then they were very angry,**

8 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Yahrushalayim, and to harm it.

9 Nevertheless we made our tefillah to our Elohim, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

10 And Yahudah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is weakening, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

11 And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, until we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

12 And it came to pass, that when the Yahudim who dwelt by them came, they said to us ten times, From all places wherever you turn they are against us.

13 So I set in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I set the people according to their mishpachot with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14 And I looked, and rose up, and said to the nobles, and to the heads, and to the rest of the people, Be not afraid of them: remember יְהוָה, who is great and terrible, and fights for your brothers, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and Elohim had brought their counsel to nothing, that we returned all of us to the wall, everyone to his work.

16 And it came to pass from that time forward that the half of my avadim worked in the work and the other half of them held the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the breastplates; and the heads were behind all the Bayit of Yahudah.

17 They, who built on the wall, and they that bore burdens, with those that loaded, everyone with one of his hands worked in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

18 For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side, and so built. And he that sounded the shofar was by me.

19 And I said to the nobles, and to the heads, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20 In whatever place therefore you hear the sound of the shofar, join us there: our Elohim shall fight for us.

21 So we labored in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning until the cochavim appeared.

22 Likewise at the same time I said to the people, Let every one with his eved sleep within Yahrushalayim, that in the night they may be a guard for us, and labor on the day.

23 So neither I, nor my brothers, nor my avadim, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes, except that every one put them off for washing.

What was the answer t their threats? Manipulations? Traps? And vendettas. Nehemiah refused to allow any of his people to get caught in a battle they could not win. Instead, they trusted YHWH to justify and defend them and to complete the work through them. They refused to get caught in a battle they could not fight and win. Think of hoe many battles over the years at work, school and elsewhere where instead of avoiding and staying focused you may have gotten sucked into a situation where for months or weeks you tried to convince or change a situation but it was only a losing battle with no aim, victory, goal line or calling. You and I cannot make anyone do anything. All we can do is choose our battles wisely. Give example of a married couple and open lights, or toothpaste or toilet seat.

6 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Toviya, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had built the wall, and that there was no breach left in it, though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;

2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, Come, let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me evil. BEWARE OF USELESS MEETINGS!

3 And 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 come down to you?

4 Yet they sent to me four times in this manner; and I answered them the same way.

5 Then Sanballat sent his eved to me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

6 In which was written, It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says it, that you and the Yahudim think to rebel: for which cause you build the wall that you may be their melech, according to these words.

7 And you have also appointed neviim to proclaim about you at Yahrushalayim, saying, There is a melech in Yahudah: and now shall it be reported to the melech according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

8 Then I sent to him, saying, There are no such things done as you have said, but you are creating them out of your own lev.

9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it will not be finished. Now therefore, O Elohim, strengthen my hands.

10 Afterward I came to the bayit of Shemayah the son of Delayah the son of Mehetav-El, who was restrained; and he said, Let us meet together in the Bayit of Elohim, within the Hekal, and let us shut the doors of the Hekal: for they will come to slay you; yes, in the night will they come to slay you.

11 And I said, Should such a man as I flee? And who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the Hekal to save his chayim? I will not go in.

12 And, see, I discerned that Elohim had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Toviyah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 Therefore he was hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have a matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

14 My Elohim, think upon Toviyah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the niviyah Noadyah, and the rest of the neviim, that would have put me in fear.

15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

When your enemies cannot stop you they will begin to threaten or lie about you and threaten to expose your secrets or secret sin. Our response is we choose not to battle but to reinforce our purposes. Let them say whatever!

16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard about it, and all the heathen that were around us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was the work of our Elohim.

Mishle 26:21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Mishle 14:7 7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you perceive not in him the lips of da'at.

Romans 2:8 But to those that are contentious against the emet, and do not obey the emet, but actually obey unrighteousness, will come indignation and wrath,

1 Cor.3:3 For you are still worldly: since there is among you ongoing envying, and strife, and divisions, are you not worldly, and walking as natural men?

Gal 5:20 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, quarrels, jealousies, rage, strife, selfish ambition, stubbornness, heresies,

First Timothy 6 3

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Master יהושע ha Moshiach, and to the teaching which is according to Shabbat-guarding piety;

4 He is proud, knows nothing, but is sick, engaging in questions and verbal battles, from which comes envy, contention, strife, blasphemy, evil suspicions,

5 Worthless disputes of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the emet, supposing that serving יהוה is a means to unjust wealth and is the same as Shabbat-guarding piety: from such withdraw yourself.

6 But Shabbat-guarding piety with contentment is the greatest gain.

Close- Some or most battles in life cannot be won and thus are not worth fighting. Before you decide to engage ask yourself what is the goal, or spoil even if I can change others views and opinions about me?