

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 6 1-9



‘Do not grant the desires of the wicked,
O Lord, do not prosper their wicked plans.’
Psalm 140:8

Praising:

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a
doubt,
fightings and fears, within,
without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Reading:

Nehemiah 6:1-9
Plotters try to frighten Nehemiah

Aside from the doors in the gates,
the wall is complete. Nehemiah
must now deal with devious
approaches from the Jews’
primary political and religious
opponents Sanballat, Tobiah and
Geshem. Four times they try to
lure Nehemiah to Ono in order to
harm him, and four times
Nehemiah makes the excuse that
he cannot leave his
responsibilities on the building
site. The fifth time the enemies

employ a different tactic,
threatening to report Nehemiah to
the king for plotting rebellion.
Because some prophets were
known as fomenters of rebellion,
they invent a story that Nehemiah
has set up prophets in Jerusalem
to proclaim that a new king will
arise from among the Jews.
Nehemiah decides not to give
them the time of day: their claims
are groundless and their threats
are empty. Strengthened by God,
the building programme will
continue.

Listening:

Praying:

We hold before you Lord those
who plot mischief and plan harm

- where greed pulls heart strings and power corrupts minds and wills
- where personal gain is put before collective good regardless of the consequences
- where rights are abused and freedoms attacked in the name of a higher ideology

Father: I pray for purity of motive,
that where I see selfishness and
manipulation in others, I may see
them first in me, and in the
strength of your Spirit make your
loving values my own. Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 20 September 2016