

# Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 6 10-19



Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and those who breathe out violence.

Psalm 27:15

## **Praising:**

Thine for ever! Lord of life,  
shield us through our earthly  
strife;  
thou the Life, the truth, the Way,  
guide us to the realms of day.

## **Reading:**

Nehemiah 6:10-19  
False prophets seek to  
undermine Nehemiah

Having supposedly dispensed  
with Sanballat and Tobiah the  
external enemies, the false  
prophet Shemaiah now emerges  
as the enemy within. Shemaiah  
tells Nehemiah of a threat to  
murder him and tries to persuade  
Nehemiah to take refuge in the  
house of God. Nehemiah quickly  
discovers that Shemaiah has  
actually been paid to entrap him  
by Sanballat and Tobiah. To  
Nehemiah, it would have been

sinful to use the temple as a  
coward's bolthole and damaging  
to his reputation. Turning his  
enemies over to the judgment of  
God, Nehemiah reflects instead  
on what has been accomplished.  
Completed in the autumn month  
Elul, the reconstruction of the  
walls is achieved in fifty two days.  
Begrudgingly, the enemies of the  
Jews see this feat as a sign of  
God's approval. Although it  
unnerves them, it also provokes  
them to further threats and  
menaces.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Lord we pray for a right attitude  
before you

- to bring our needs to you  
before anything else, not just  
fall back on you as a last  
resort
- to trust in your protection and  
provision and step out in faith  
humbly, with you at our side
- to see where you have  
strengthened, encouraged and  
blessed us in the past

Father: it would be so easy to  
hide behind you and let the  
scariest opportunities to serve you  
pass me by. But it wouldn't be  
discipleship. It certainly wouldn't  
be the way of the cross. Amen

## **Doing:**