

**Title: Defeating accusation**

**Pastor: Fred May**

**Date: 1 November 2015**

**Time: 9:00am**



**Ezra 4:1, 4-6,7, 16 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> "When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the Lord, the God of Israel ... (they) ... set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building. They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans .... they lodged an accusation against the people of Judah and Jerusalem .... And (they) ... wrote a letter to Artaxerxes ...." We inform the king that if this city is built and its walls are restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates."

A] A **commitment to build** with God invariably **brings** vehement **opposition**. The storm has varying combinations of the following dimensions, namely, spiritual, emotional, social, material and political. **Accusation** is a **primary weapon** deployed against us, as well as ridicule, slander and discrediting, threats, intimidation, and conspiracy:

**Nehemiah 4:7-9 (AMP)** "But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the wall of Jerusalem were going up and that the breaches were being closed, they were very angry. And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem, to injure and cause confusion and failure in it. But because of them we made our prayer to our God and set a watch against them day and night."

B] Other examples in Scripture of the righteous facing accusation –

- Job - After suffering a super storm of unimaginable tragedy and loss, was accused by his friends of being the cause of his own suffering owing to assumed sin on his part..
  - Moses: Despite his courage and obedience, was accused by the Israelites that he had brought them out into the desert to die.
  - Joseph: As a slave, was accused of raping the wife of his master, Potiphar. He was imprisoned.
  - David: After demonstrating only unstinting loyalty and integrity, was falsely accused by King Saul, an insecure, envious leader, of conspiring to usurp his throne.
  - Daniel: wielding great, Godly influence in foreign court.
- Christ was accused of sedition - a crime punishable by death –

**Isaiah 53:7 (NIV)** "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

C] How to overcome the power of accusation:

**Discern it as a spiritual assignment –**

**Zechariah 3:1 (NIV)** "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him."

**Revelation 12:10 (NASB)** "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

The accusing spirit is a voice that seeks to mimic one's conscience. It apportions blame. At times it even gets compounded or mediated through toxic people.

**Discern its nature** and make the vital distinction:

Accusation produces **condemnation** - a negative, demoralizing awareness of your sin and failure that makes one feel alienated from God and beyond the reach of His love and mercy. The overwhelming sensations of guilt and shame induce feelings of self-loathing and despair.

Condemnation invariably comes with a painful stream of reminders of past failures, and the repetitive claim that there is no solution. **Conviction**, however, is a deep inner awareness of current, specific behavior that God finds unacceptable. It is an inner consciousness of one's sin and failure in the light of God's perfection and holiness, accompanied by deep feelings of remorse and penitence due to knowing the drawing power of His healing hands of love, forgiveness and grace, toward Himself. This is known as '*Godly sorrow*' (2Corinthians7:10 NJKV) And it always comes with the hope of a solution, the inner assurance of an answer to the dilemma.

**Romans 2:4 (NKJV)** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that **the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**"

Scripture also makes a clear distinction between our obligation to exercise moral and legal **judgement** which is essentially distinct from **accusation** and **condemnation**.

An accusation is valid only if accompanied by certified proof, and corroborated by formal, non-partisan affidavits. If not it is mere gossip and rumor: "Listen to no accusation [presented before a judge] against an elder unless it is confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. [Deut. 19:15.]" 1 Timothy 5:19 AMP

- Discern **satanic intent** - it is to **discredit** and **disrupt** the redemptive work of Christ in our lives; to damage and ultimately destroy your faith, to wear you down spiritually, to rob us of momentum. It instills feelings of self-doubt, uncertainty, confusion, unbelief, resentment towards God (offendedness).

**Job1:8-12 (HCSB)** You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and strike everything he owns, and he will **surely curse You to Your face.**" "Very well," the Lord told Satan, "everything he owns is in your power. However, you must not lay a hand on Job himself." So Satan left the Lord's presence.

- **Be receptive for a 'Word' from God/ prophetic input.**

**Ezra 5:1-2 (NIV)** "Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, **prophesied to the Jews** in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them

- **Remain audaciously intentional i.r.o the divine mandate.**

**Luke 6:7-8, 10 (NASB)** "The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him. But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" And he got up

and came forward .... After looking around at them all, He said to him, "Stretch out your hand!" And he did so; and his hand was restored."

Also discern a spirit of jealousy when God accords one favor:

**Daniel 6:3-4 (NASB)** "Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel ..."

- Conduct spiritual refutation, as act of spiritual warfare. Declare God's standing commitment to vindicate His servants:

**Isaiah 54:17 (NASB)** "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD."

**Zechariah 2:8 (NASB)** "For thus says the LORD of hosts ... for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye." Deal with the specific words of accusation and declare them powerless and subject to God's holy destruction. Remind the Accuser of God's rebuke of him based on your sovereign calling by Him:

**Zechariah 3:1-2 (NIV)** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

**Acts 4:29-30 (HCSB)** "And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that Your slaves may speak Your message with complete boldness, while You stretch out Your hand for healing, signs, and wonders to be performed through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

- Resist retaliation in kind; avoid making an accidental alliance with satan by 'striking back' through counter accusation. Be careful to contest a spiritual battle ONLY with spiritual weapons:

**Revelation 12:11 (NIV)** "They triumphed over him [the accuser] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

Forgive and bless your human accusers sincerely - negate the legal grounds the enemy presumes to hold against you in this way:

**1Peter 3:9 (AMP)** "Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For now that to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection]."

**Job 42:10 (NKJV)** "And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before." Receive forgiveness from God with confidence, thanksgiving and joy -

**1John1:9 (NLT)** "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

**Romans 3:23-24 (NLT))** "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins."

Know that God fights for us, the battle belongs to Him. He knows. He sympathizes. And He has a plan to deliver us:

**Jeremiah 39:18 (HCSB "** "Indeed, I will certainly deliver you so that you do not fall by the sword. Because you have trusted in Me, you will keep your life like the spoils of war." This is the Lord's declaration."

**Deuteronomy 20:1 (AMP)**

"When you go forth to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, do not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you."