

## I Can't Come Down

Who is your favorite person in the Bible? I suppose many would pick Jesus, which would, of course, be the best answer. But concerning people who were men like ourselves, who makes an impression? Who is it that you would like to imitate? I have a fondness for Nehemiah. Nehemiah impresses me. He was a great example of leadership. The "I can do" attitude possessed by him and apparently spread throughout the community. The perseverance and stamina that he and the people possessed were great. They built the wall. *"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work"* (Nehemiah 4:6). The story of how the people accomplished this task is incredible. The conditions were far from ideal. They constantly had to fight the enemy. Opposition against their work flourished. But they were not to be stopped. They overcame the obstacles through prayer and work. They did not allow anyone to sidetrack them. One of the most interesting incidents is recorded in Nehemiah chapter six. *"Now it came to pass, when it was reported to Sanballat and Tobiah, and to Geshem the Arabian, and unto the rest of our enemies, that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein (though even unto that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), that Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?"*. This is classic. I do not have time to waste on you, is the message Nehemiah is sending. My work is too important to leave and come down and talk with you.

It seems we have somewhat the same situation today. There are many in the brotherhood who feel they have been given the task of overseeing the work that everyone is doing. Those who preach think they have to answer everybody that has a gripe against them. I appreciate Nehemiah, "I can't come down". I am doing the Lord's work. Years ago I thought if some one questioned what I was doing, I had to explain to them my purpose for doing a particular work. If I am engaged in error, I expect my good brethren to point this out and help me to do the Lord's will. But to feel compelled to give everyone a reason for what I do or don't do, I am doing a good work and I can't come down. I heard that one of our wise preachers of yesteryear was asked about a debate he had been challenged to engage in. "Are you going to debate this person", he was asked. The good brother replied, "No, you can't outpuke a buzzard."

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