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PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we are led by your example and command, we pray for our enemies today. Please saturate our lives with the Holy Spirit's power. Let your love flow in us and through us, and forgive us for holding on to anything that hinders our prayers. We release any unforgiveness, thoughts about revenge, or hateful emotions that can quench your Spirit in our lives. Please give us wisdom and compassion to bless, love, and continue to pray for our enemies. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

When you walk into a party of friends and acquaintances, do you normally:

1. Look for the food
2. Look for friends you know
3. Look to make new friends
4. Look for the dance floor
5. Look for the exit

NOTES

WORD

⁵ Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

⁸ Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.

[Jude 1:5-8](#)

¹ Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), ² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.” But they intended to do me harm. ³ And I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?”

[Nehemiah 6:1-3](#)

Whether it is Jude continuing to preach the gospel despite persecution, or Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, in both situations, we find these men and their friends set on building the Kingdom of God with heavy opposition. What would keep them steadfast in seeing what they were building as more important than to succumb to the opinions of their hateful critics?

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate your ability to disregard critics who are not constructive? Why do you rate yourself this way?
2. Do you find it easy or hard to celebrate the victories of others who do better

than you at something? Why?

3. Do you know what your mission is in life? How clear is this mission? How resolute are you in this life mission?
4. Take into regard Question 3 - what are identifying factors that can possibly shake you from fulfilling this mission/vision for your life?
5. Is your mission/vision one that God gave you, or one you designed yourself? How do you know?

PRAYER LIST