“Plots and Schemes” – Nehemiah 6:1-19 (April 7, 2019)

As the work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem approaches completion, the enemies of God’s people turn to manipulation and scheming, especially in the area of politics. It is in facing such schemes that God’s people need to be vigilant and aware. More than just planning and responding with wise action, we need to press into trusting God for strength and to leave the enemies in His hand. When all is said and done, it will be evident that any true work of God reveals His presence and blessing rather than human ingenuity.

1. **Those involved in God’s work may face manipulative schemes from adversaries**
   * **Scheme #1: Removing key leaders from the work of God**
   * **Scheme #2: Formally accusing them of malice in order to demoralize**
   * **Scheme #3: Causing leaders to sin out of fear in order to discredit their work**
   * **Scheme #4: Creating “unequally yoked” partnerships to compromise their integrity**

1. **While discernment and wisdom are necessary for facing such schemes, ultimately, we need strength from God through prayer**

1. **The success of God’s work will be evidence of His presence**