

WEEK EIGHT

Distractions & Deception: Staying at the Work Nehemiah 6:1-14

The Scholar's Corner: The "Plain of Ono" was about 25 miles from Jerusalem—a "neutral" distance that was actually an ambush site. The "open letter" (v. 5) was a breach of protocol intended to spread rumors to the public.

The Heart of the Matter: The enemy shifts from threats to deception.

1. The Distraction of Ono (vv. 1-4)

"I am doing a great work and I cannot come down." Nehemiah refuses to be distracted.

2. The Slander of Rebellion (vv. 5-9)

The enemy uses "fake news," accusing Nehemiah of wanting to be King. Nehemiah denies it and prays: "Strengthen my hands."

3. The Trap in the Temple (vv. 10-14)

Shemaiah tries to lure Nehemiah into the Temple's inner sanctuary. For a layman, this was a sin. The enemy tries to get Nehemiah to sin to save his life.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What "good" opportunities are distracting you from your "great" work?
2. How do you handle it when people misunderstand your motives?
3. How did Nehemiah discern the false prophet?
4. How does your identity in Christ give you courage to stay?
5. What is your go-to short prayer when under attack?