



**Week 5 – 071022**

## **Detours and Tourist Traps**

**Your ability to overcome distraction will be the number one determinant of how successful you are on your path to fulfilling God's calling on your life.**

<sup>1</sup> Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. <sup>2a</sup> So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. **Nehemiah 6:1-2a**

**If the devil can't destroy you, he will distract you.**

<sup>2b</sup> But I realized they were plotting to harm me, <sup>3</sup> so I replied by sending this message to them: "I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?" **Nehemiah 6:2b-3**

<sup>5</sup> The fifth time, Sanballat's servant came with an open letter in his hand, <sup>6</sup> and this is what it said: "There is a rumor among the surrounding nations, and Geshem tells me it is true, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king." **Nehemiah 6:5-6**

**\*\*\*Rumors are created by Haters—Spread by Fools—Accepted by Idiots!\*\*\***

**Don't worry about what people say about you. Worry about what's true about you.**

<sup>8</sup> I replied, "There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing." <sup>9</sup> They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination. **Nehemiah 6:8-9**

<sup>14</sup> Remember, O my God, all the evil things that Tobiah and Sanballat have done. And remember Noadiah the prophet and all the prophets like her who have tried to intimidate me. <sup>15</sup> So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. **Nehemiah 6:14-15**

**NLT version used**