



Sermon 5

# How do I Deal with Obstacles to Following Jesus

<sup>1</sup> Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?” <sup>3</sup> Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, “Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!”

**Nehemiah 4:1-3 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> Thus in Judah it was said,  
“The strength of the burden bearers is failing,  
yet there is much rubbish;  
and we ourselves are unable  
to rebuild the wall.”

#### **Nehemiah 4:10 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. <sup>2</sup> For there were those who said, “We, our sons and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain that we may eat and live.” <sup>3</sup> There were others who said, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our houses that we might get grain because of the famine.” <sup>4</sup> Also there were those who said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tax on our fields and our vineyards. <sup>5</sup> Now our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers, our children like their children. Yet behold, we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters are forced into bondage already, and we are helpless because our fields and vineyards belong to others.”

#### **Nehemiah 5:1-5 (NASB)**

Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand.

**Nehemiah 6:5 (NASB)**

When I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was [a]confined at home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you, and they are coming to kill you at night."

**Nehemiah 6:10 (NASB)**

Anything of value is going to meet with opposition and since the most valuable relationship in our life is with Jesus, expect obstacles. When you act on your faith in Christ and follow the Lord you will discover that opposition can come from almost every direction. How do you deal with these obstacles?

## **That is what we will consider today.**

1. How do I deal with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that I receive?
2. How do I deal with obstacles placed by my \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?
3. How do I deal with obstacles and life-threatening opposition from \_\_\_\_\_?