

## WISE LEADERSHIP IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION

*Nehemiah 4:1-23*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** In tracing the life of Nehemiah so far, we've seen him as the quintessentially courageous leader. After his great success in chapter 3, organizing the people to build the wall, we might assume he could sit back on this accomplishment and enjoy a sense of closure. Not so! Powerful enemies are rising up to oppose his work. They are furious with his progress, and they act swiftly to shut him down. In the process, Nehemiah models for us what courageous leadership looks like, especially in a place of opposition. All leaders face hostility at some point: Parents face resistance when their children enter their teen years. Employers face disagreement when they launch new ventures. Churches sometimes face opposition when their values run counter to the values of the world. In this chapter, Nehemiah shows us how opposition begins and grows, and how a follower of God responds in a way that honors God and advances God's kingdom work.

1. **Story** - Three progressive waves of opposition and three courageous responses.  
*Nehemiah 4:1-23*

2. **Idea**

### 3. Takeaways