



## MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **Stay the Course until Completion**  
Series: **Moving Forward Together**  
Text: **Nehemiah 4-6**  
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **January 25, 2026**

### HOW TO STAY ON TRACK WHEN YOU FACE TRIALS OF MANY KINDS?

*So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. (Ne 6:15).*

#### 1. FACE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_

*When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”*

*3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!” (Ne 4:1–3). (2011). Zondervan.*

### HOW TO FACE YOUR CRITICS?

#### A) \_\_\_\_\_ !

*Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. (Ne 4:4–5).*

#### B) REMEMBER THAT NEGATIVE VOICES ARE \_\_\_\_\_ THAN POSITIVE ONES!

*But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. (Ne 4:7–8).*

#### C) CORPORATE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_

*But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat. (Ne 4:9).*

## 2. FACE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “**The strength of the laborers is giving out**, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.” (Ne 4:10).

Now the men and their wives **raised a great outcry** against their fellow Jews. (Ne 5:1).

- **Shortage**
  - Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us **to eat and stay alive**, we must get grain.” (Ne 5:2).
  - We are **mortgaging our fields**, our **vineyards** and our **homes** to get grain during **the famine**.” (Ne 5:3).
- **Struggles**
  - Still others were saying, “We have had to **borrow money to pay the king's tax** on our fields and vineyards. (Ne 5:4).
  - Although we are of the **same flesh and blood** as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been **enslaved**, but **we are powerless**, because **our fields and our vineyards belong to others**.” (Ne 5:5).

What did Nehemiah do?

- **When I heard their outcry** and these charges, I was very angry. 7 I **pondered them in my mind** and then accused the nobles and officials. (Ne 5:6–7).
- **DEAL WITH THE \_\_\_\_\_ ISSUE**
  - I told them, “**You are charging your own people interest!**” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them 8 and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. **Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!**” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say. (Ne 5:7–8).
- **OFFER A \_\_\_\_\_**
  - But **let us stop charging interest!** 11 **Give back to them** immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.” (Ne 5:10–11).

At this the whole assembly said, “**Amen,**” and praised the LORD. And **the people did as they had promised.** (Ne 5:13).

NEHEMIAH IS PROMOTED TO \_\_\_\_\_ !