

The Problem of Enemies

I. Some Become Our Enemies
For No Good Reason

- Ps.35¹⁹ Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; Nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause
- Ps.69⁴ Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it

- Jn.15²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.
²⁵ But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

How does this happen?

1. Your enemy may have done something to harm you.
 - 2 Sm.10:1-8
 - Pr.26:28, A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin

How does this happen?

2. You tell enemy what he needs to hear...

- 1 K.22
- 2 Chr.16
 - 2 Sm.12
- Gal.4:16, Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

How does this happen?

3. You know something bad on your enemy
 - Jn.12:10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus

How does this happen?

4. Some have a chip on their shoulder – don't like anybody
 - Ro.12:18, If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
 - Why is it conditional?
 - People are free moral agents
 - 2 Th.3:2, that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

How does this happen?

5. Some are afflicted with envy

- 1 Sm.18:...7-9, Saul's envy against David
- Mt.27:18, Jews read this narrative . . .
 - So do Christians
- Heb.4:2

II. What To Do About Enemies?

1: Do not rejoice at their failures

- 2 Sm.1:...11-12
- Prov.24:17, Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; 18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him

2: Do not get on their level

- 2 Sm.16:5-13; 19:16-23, David and Shimei
- 1 Pt.2:23 ... who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously

3: Save them

- Lk.6:27-30
 - a. Love them. How to love an enemy?
 - b. Do good to them. Jn.3:16
 - c. Bless them. 1 Co.4:12
 - d. Pray for them. Lk.23:34. Acts 7
 - e. Turn the cheek. Leave vengeance to God
 - f. Give to them. 2 K.5:1-4

3: Save them

- Ro.12:19-21
 - 19: give place to wrath. [Chance, opportunity – Ep.4:27]
 - 20: coals of fire . . . ? *Coals of fire* –
 - Kindness
 - Burning pangs of shame that follow a kind deed
 - 21: do not be overcome with evil...
 - Do not let satan get two souls...

4: Do not let them control your life

- Joseph, Gn.41:51-52
 - Manasseh: ‘causing to forget’
 - Ephraim: ‘fruitful’
- Lk.6:22-23 –
 - 22: hate you, exclude you, revile you, cast out your name as evil...
 - 27, love
 - 33, do good
 - 23: rejoice! Leap for joy! Why?

Why Rejoice?

1. Suffering produces good in us. Ac.5:41
2. We learn self-control. Ac.5:42
3. We wean ourselves away from this earth.
4. We yearn even more for heaven.
5. We may influence others by our self-control.
6. We will not be plagued with a guilty conscience. (“I shouldn’t have done that!”)
7. We may learn from our enemy how NOT to act; we may not learn in any other way. Our enemy is our teacher

Peace!

- Jn.14:27, Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid
- Jn.16:33, These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.