

FRIDAY, November 13, 2009:

Part 5: When Life Brings Enemies
Psalm 140:12-13

12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and justice for the poor.

13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; the upright shall dwell in Your presence.

When you are going through a tough time, especially when you are dealing with enemies, it can start playing mind games on you. But let me encourage you to not allow the fact that someone doesn't like you to paralyze you. Your goal in life is not to have everyone like you and approve of you. Your goal in life is to please God. Some of the greatest Christians that have ever lived were not popular and liked in all circles.

In whatever field you research, you will find that the most truly successful people often had many enemies. Enemies are often a sign that you are doing something right, that you are going against the mediocrity of the status quo.

So what I encourage you to do is to do what the psalmist did: Make faith decisions; not fear decisions.

Do you see that in today's verses? The writer does not allow himself to fall into despair. Instead he makes positive statements of truth based on God's character (not the character of those trying to hurt him).

You can do the same. Dare to hold your head up high. There is Someone who fights for you. There is Someone that will maintain your cause.

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 3:22

SATURDAY, November 14, 2009:

Part 6: When Life Brings Enemies
Psalm 139:19-24

"...I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies."

It has been said that you should choose your friends carefully and that you should choose your enemies very carefully.

All week long we've examined the subject, "When Life Brings Enemies." Truly it is a sad reality of life that everyone will have enemies throughout their life.

However, another reality is that there are times when *you* must be an enemy yourself. Wisdom is required here. If you read the entire passage that I recommended (Psalm 139:19-24) you will discover the criteria for choosing your enemies. Bottom line, your enemies should be those that hate God; not someone that hates you, has hurt you, or some other "personal" reason.

I'll give you one example. I challenge you to take another look at what you allow into your home and life. Our nation is full of influential people that hate God and are doing everything they can to tear down our Christian heritage. Beware of those people and do not allow them access to your life.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:9



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of November 8, 2009

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

Personal Notes:



MONDAY, November 9, 2009:

Part 1: When Life Brings Enemies
Psalm 140:1-3

*1 Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men,
2 Who plan evil things in their hearts; they continually gather together for war.
3 They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; the poison of asps is under their lips. Selah*

What a way to begin a week; to remind you that you have enemies! Sorry, but it is a sad fact of life that you have enemies. This is true even for the most righteous saint that has ever lived, and this is true for you.

You may mean well, you may be as close to God as you've ever been in your life and you may be the friendliest and nicest person in the world; but nevertheless, it is important that you understand that there are enemies out there waiting on you this week.

Throughout this week, we will work through Psalm 140, which is a prayer of David. It will give us practical help in dealing with this important matter.

As far as today, my encouragement to you is: Be aware, but do not be afraid. Stay focused on what you can control and leave the rest in God's hands. More about this tomorrow...

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 22:17

TUESDAY, November 10, 2009:

Part 2: When Life Brings Enemies
Psalm 140:4-5

*4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from violent men, who have purposed to make my steps stumble.
5 The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set traps for me. Selah*

It is important to know who your enemies are. For example, it is important that you not confuse real enemies with someone who is just having a bad day or with someone who may not agree with you about something. Matter of fact the person who tells you the truth should be a treasured friend!

Today's verses teach us that **real enemies are those people that are intentional about hurting you.** They are the ones "who have purposed to make your steps stumble" (verse 4).

Enemies are people that have an agenda for your life that is not in your best interest.

Sometimes these people are easy to pick out. For example, if a man comes at you cursing and swinging a pickax at your head, chances are he is your enemy! But your most dangerous enemies are often people you do not even know or think of as enemies. For example, they are the people and the organizations that they run try to get you to adopt a lifestyle or embrace a philosophy of life that is not in your best interest; they can even appear to be very religious.

Bottom line, it is important to remember that enemies don't always use guns and knives; but they always are intentional about gaining an advantage at your expense.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 7:6

WEDNESDAY, November 11, 2009:

Part 3: When Life Brings Enemies
Psalm 140:6-8

*6 I said to the LORD: "You are my God; hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD.
7 O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, You have covered my head in the day of battle.
8 Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked; do not further his wicked scheme, lest they be exalted. Selah*

What we have learned so far is:

- 1) Just because someone is a Christian, means well, and is good does not mean they do not have enemies. Everyone has enemies!
- 2) It is important that you know who your real enemies are – people who are intentional about hurting you and/or benefitting at your expense.

Today's verses teach us the importance of not allowing our enemies to dominate our thinking and our actions. When that happens, they are controlling us. Instead, **focus on God, not your enemies.** Allow God to defend you and you just keep doing the right thing to the best of your ability. In the end, you have the promise that things will work out right for you.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 10:25, 28-30, 11:21, 12:2, 15:3, 25, 29, 16:3-5, 7

THURSDAY, November 12, 2009:

Part 4: When Life Brings Enemies
Psalm 140:9-11

*9 "As for the head of those who surround me, let the evil of their lips cover them;
10 Let burning coals fall upon them; let them be cast into the fire, into deep pits, that they rise not up again.
11 Let not a slanderer be established in the earth; let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow him."*

Wow! Today's bible verses provide some blistering commentary. Why not try that on someone the next time you get upset at them...well maybe not. For if you notice, David is not actually talking to his enemies, he is talking to God and therein is a very important lesson when life brings enemies.

The lesson is this: Wisdom is knowing who your enemies are and not naively setting yourself up to fall into their traps; but it is also not wasting time trying to fight your enemy. When you stoop to the level of your enemies and start fighting back, you usually end up with mud on your face. **Instead, let God fight your battles for you.** After all, if you are living your life for God's glory, success is assured no matter what your enemies may do. Now that should give you some encouragement!

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:14-15; Proverbs 20:22