

Is anything too hard for the Lord? – Enemies?

Genesis 18:14

14. (With regard to Sarah having a child) “Is any thing too hard for the Lord?”

Jeremiah 32:27

27. Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Have you ever had an enemy? Do you have one now? Or, could it be you are counted as an enemy to someone else. Vines Dictionary of Bible Words defines enemy:

- hated, odious, hateful ; hostile, hating, and opposing another

Sometimes conflict is inevitable. When someone(s) becomes unreasonable and unrepentant, enmity usually results. Let’s look at some examples from the Bible and learn how to conduct ourselves in similar circumstances.

Whatever the reason for our enemies, the question is: Is the Lord aware, and will he provide help? The same Lord God who made the heaven and the earth?

EVERYDAY, RUN OF THE MILL ENEMIES

- **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Saul and David (**1 Samuel chapter 9-31**)

Saul sought to slay David because David was anointed to replace him as King. David escaped the javelin, left home under cover, hid in caves, and ran from town to town. Saul gave his daughter, David’s wife, to another man. David fled to live among the Philistines to escape Saul’s pursuit. He and his men ate whatever they could, even “hallowed” bread from the priest. David had opportunity several times to take the life of Saul, but refused to “lift up his hand against the Lord’s anointed”. When the Lord refused to counsel him anymore, Saul even went so far as to enquire of a witch to divine the spirit of Samuel.

1 Samuel 23:14 And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14 (Saul dies at the hands of the Philistines)

13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it;

14 And inquired not of the Lord: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse. (See Leviticus 20:27)

- David’s song of thankfulness is recorded in 2 Samuel 22
- **Application for us:** If we trust in the Lord and always seek his counsel, he will care for us and provide relief from the oppressor.

CHRISTIANS THAT WALK DISORDERLY

Sometimes “Christians” behave in un-Christian ways

- **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Lazy, Busybodies in Thessalonica (Were hindering the Churches work)

2 Thessalonians 3:10-15 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should eat. 11. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

- What is the church to do about these people?

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. 14. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

- See **Matthew 18:15-18** & **James 4:1-7**

- **Application for us:**

When we suffer at the hands of fellow *Christians*, we must continue to be faithful to God's word. We must talk to the offender as well as Lord about it. We must also allow the church to help. By following the example in Matthew 18:15-18, we let the other person realize the severity of their offense. We also allow our church family to help bear our burden. This provides others information to protect themselves and perhaps other congregations. Most importantly, it allows the opportunity to be reconciled.

DEATH:

- **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Hezekiah & Job

2 Kings 20:1-3 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. 2. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, 3. I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Job 10:20-22 Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little, 21. Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death; 22. A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.

David speaks to Jonathan: **1 Samuel 20:3**but truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.

Application for us: It is ok to fear death. Jesus feared the suffering he would endure before and during the crucifixion, "*Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;*" *Hebrews 5:7.* It is ok to want to live. However, death is an appointment and an enemy. We must remember that God has promised that he will be with us in that hour and provide rest.

Job 14:14-15 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. 15. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

HOW ARE WE TO TREAT OUR ENEMIES:

- **Proverbs 24:17-18** *Do not be happy when your enemy falls and stumbles.*
- **Proverbs 25:21-22** *Provide Food and Drink if they are needed*
- **Matthew 5:42-44** *Love and pray for your enemies*

Comforting thoughts....

- God can lift us above the reach of our enemies

Psalms 61:2-3 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

- The Lord is aware of how we are treated and will help.

Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."