

The truth about “MY ENEMIES”

Luke 19:43 - The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.

When the mechanic says your car is really really broke, your doctor says you are really really sick, your banker says you are really really broke, your friends say you are really really rejected,

There is hope!

Ps 23 - Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Exod 23:22 I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. _____

WHO is your enemy? Your banker, doctor, mechanic, friends?

One who is actively opposed or hostile to you.

a hostile force in time of war.

some thing that harms or weakens your cause.

Our emotions or feelings will always tell us it is people or a specific person.

Our Rational solution will reveal that your enemy is a feeling, emotion, disposition.

Depression, anxiety, inadequacy, anger, jealousy, greed.

If your goal is success, then failure is your enemy? Or is it your teacher?

If your goal is health, then sickness and disease...

If Peace is the goal, bitterness and unforgiveness will rob you.

If your goal is knowledge and wisdom, then ignorance and denial...

If your goal is fulfilling relationships, then dysfunction is your enemy.

Goal is Salvation, then religion is my enemy. (sin, anything but grace)

Make the opposition teach you something.

Peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the presence of justice.

Mis labeled enemies? People?

Boss, mother in law, ex wife / husband, debt collector,

Groups of people? (Muslims, democrats, competitors)

Old Test - Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Canaanites, Philistines,

Israels real enemy was sin. (outside, inside, self induced?)

What do we do with our enemy? We FIGHT

Every step, every day...

The first “war” in the Bible was between 9 kings for power and real estate.

Lot had lived in Sodom for 8 years after choosing to leave Abraham.

(Gen 14) 11 The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. 12 They also carried off Abram’s nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom... When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit.... 16 He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people... 18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Abraham protected and defended family (sacred) and refused to keep his enemies possessions –

The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.”²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’”

1. the world is always at war around us

(often surrounding us) but God surrounds our enemies!

2. when should we decide to fight? Over what?

3. what loot (Booty) do we often keep or assimilate into our culture after the fight?

Did we dance with the devil in the pale moon light?

4. When God delivers us do we honor Him in return? Or return to Sodom?

In Gen 19 Lot was back in Sodom... He offered his daughters to the perverts who wanted to rape 2 messengers from God.

Lot his wife and 2 daughters left in a rush before its destruction...

His daughters in turn, did evil and had offspring – which became Moabites, and Ammonites – enemies of Israel.

Races are not good or evil. A Race often represents a culture or set of behaviors.

SEE Maps...

the people personified the real enemy of Gods plan. (sin)

The real enemy of Abrahams success (the future of Israel) was Lots mentality, and lack of respect for Gods boundaries

God often said to Israel, “do NOT intermarry” with other cultures.

We are so simple and stupid to think that God doesn’t like one race or another.

How do you see (recognize) Gods protection when enemies wage war?

2 Kings 6:15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.¹⁶ “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

King David had 17 battles, 10 times defended himself from Saul, once with Absalom ... and one source said

King David fought 66 battles and never lost!!!! With his army, with himself?

Psalm 118: 6 The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?⁷ The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies.

Sometimes I am my own worst enemy!

What I say I want for my life, and how I live my life are often at serious conflict.

<u>VILLAN</u>	<u>HERO</u>
If your enemy is external – (antagonist) we can spot the villain I can blame, transfer, get pity	If your enemy is Internal (protagonist) we have trouble recognizing him I have to face it, name it, take responsibility

SUMMARY...

1. We have made enemies with people when it wasn't necessary.
2. It makes it convenient to avoid conflict or struggle. LABEL them "enemy"
3. Our biggest enemy is not a person or people group, It is behaviors.

What if WE were Gods enemy?

But... no no no!

We're Christian, we are nice, we study the Bible, we help others.

Colossians 1:21

Romans 5:10

People – US - have been hurt, corrupted, lied to, and we follow the devils narrative.

God has rescued, enlightened, delivered and renewed our minds.

That should be our prayer for our "ENEMIES"

Because someone loved us, had patience with us, forgave us.

We should act as Gods representatives to those who are far from Him.