

Don't Become Your Enemy

A Lesson in Rest

1. One of the greatest ways to defeat your enemy is to not become your enemy. Don't take on their attitudes.
2. David was naïve about his many enemies and problems:
 - a. "Why does my father overlook me?"
 - b. "Why are my brothers angry to me?"
 - c. "Why is King Saul treating me this way?"
 - d. "Why is my son trying to overthrow me?"
 - e. "Why did my closest friend raise his heel against me?"
 - f. "Why does prosperity for a righteous man take so long?"
3. You can fret over your enemies so much for prospering that eventually you give up and take on their ways (Psalm 37:1-2).
 - a. We ask, "why do bad things happen to good people?"
 - b. David asked, "why do good things happen to good people?" "Why do the wicked prosper?"
 - c. David had to work at not being naïve about people.
 - d. You can come to a point where you say, "I've done everything right and got nowhere. So why fight it?"
 - e. Low paid police face this when arresting criminals and often, eventually steal easy money.
4. It would be easy for David to personally take revenge (Romans 12:19).
 - a. Revenge will eat you up and create bitterness.
 - b. When you give your problems to the Lord, you turn loose of them.
 - c. You can live your life and know God will take care of your situation.
 - d. One of the greatest ways to place anger on the head of your enemy is to treat your problems with apathy.
 1. "I don't care. I will let God take the care."
 2. If the problem is in God's hands, your enemies cannot provoke you.
 3. When God is in control, you are at peace.
 4. Not thinking of your enemy is a great weapon.
 5. To think too much about your enemy means your thoughts are controlling you.
5. Give your worries to the Lord then rest on His promises (Psalm 55:22, Proverbs 3:5-7, Isaiah 23:12, Matthew 11:28-29).
6. Jesus rested during a storm while the disciples fretted.

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 - b. The greatest example of faith
7. Paul was betrayed by Alexander the coppersmith and many of his personal friends. In each case, he turned each one over to the Lord so he could continue (2 Timothy 4:13-16).