

Dealing With Enemy Conflict

Exodus 17:8-13

Part One

J. W. Pitts, Jr. - Minister
Woodland Park Church of Christ

- As Christians we often have to deal with enemies where we do not expect to find them
 - Your enemies may be related to you! (see Moses, Numbers 12)
- “Think not that I am come to send peace on the earth. I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.***

And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.”

Matthew 10:34-36

“My kids are destroying me” (financially, emotionally, physically)

“My husband/wife is draining me emotionally.”

The Children of Israel Were Related to the Amalekites!

- Amalek (the father of the people) was the son of Eliphaz and the grandson of Esau (Jacob's brother)
- Jacob's name was changed by God to Israel
- So, in essence, Esau's children were attacking Jacob's children (Jacob and Esau had already settled their differences, Genesis 33)

Your Enemy's Strategy Against You Should Be Noteworthy!

“Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God.” Deuteronomy 25:17-18

Enemies Like Amalek Will Surprise You!

- They will bring temptations upon you when you least expect it (generate anger, resentment)
- They will attack you from behind when you are tired, weary, obviously not feeling “at your best”
- Beware that the devil will surprise you after a long, tiring day
- He will surprise you when you are sick (physically, emotionally), broke, etc.

Peter Summarized It Well and He Ought to Know!

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

1 Peter 5:8

Vigilant: staying awake when sleep is customary, or in this case, remaining alert when you usually believe you can relax

Moses' Strategy is Good Strategy to Use Against Our Enemies

- He tells Joshua to choose a detachment of men to go and fight against Amalek
- Moses, at the same time, said that he and his brother Aaron and Hur, would climb a hill nearby and there, hold up his hand with the rod of God in it
- Undoubtedly, the act of **holding up his rod to God in heaven signified asking God for help or prayer (praying while engaged in conflict)**

What a Beautiful Combination of Active Energy Combined With Prayer!

- One part of Israel was fighting
- The other part of Israel was praying at the same time
- To have prayed alone without fighting would have been presumptuous - taking God for granted to do for us what we could do for ourselves

We can miss a lot of God's blessings that way!

Not filling out job applications on time

Not filling out admissions forms for schools on time

Not being prepared for potential life companions

The Blessings of Active Energy Combined With Prayer

- On the other hand to have fought without praying would have been worse. Why? It would have identified Israel as feeling self dependent, as if to say, ***“I don’t need God to help me fight my battles!”***
- Sometimes we tend to treat God like comic-books use to treat a ***“Superhero”***

We try to handle most of our problems and only ask God to help us with the big ones!

Many of our big problems arise because of not allowing God to help us with the every day problems!

Which Contributed to Their Victory The Most, Their Energy or Prayer?

Prayer!

- Notice that Moses didn't go into battle but gave himself to prayer
- I'm sure that Moses felt that Joshua and the others had a relationship with God

But He Knew He Did!!

***Moses knew what God had done already for him and through him and he trusted in his own prayer life
(Psalms 40:1-3, David testified about his prayer life)***

We too need to have our own prayer life/relationship with God

He will hear you too! John 9:31



So the Final Question is:

***WHAT ABOUT YOUR
OWN PRAYER
LIFE/RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD?***

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38