

Enemies Camp - David

We first learn of David in I Samuel 16:12-13 when Samuel was looking for the new king so that he could anoint him from God. *“And the Lord said, ‘Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him”* and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. David's heart for God prepares him to be used by God. Our impressive resumes aren't what make us useful in God's kingdom. The first lesson we learn from David's life is the importance of cultivating a heart for God above all else. We meet David as a young shepherd boy. God's heart had been touched by David's praises as he sat in the fields and sang to the Lord. Prophet Samuel came to seek him out he was the one that was left out in the field with the sheep. David became a man after God's own heart, called and anointed by God. David not only found favor with God, but he found favor with the king as well. Saul called him to play on his harp to soothe the evil spirit that had come against him because of his disobedience. In I Sam 17:23, he was back in the fields with the sheep on the day that Goliath gave his challenge. His heart was pricked to stand up for the God that He loved and worshipped, by faith he accepted challenge. The giant fell. Israelites knew there was a God in Israel that day. David soon became in position of being over the men of war. (ISA18:5) Soon the women of Israel were meeting King Saul with a song. I Sam18:7 tells us the words of that song. *“And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”* Saul heard the song and things went from good to worse for David. Saul's jealousy grew worse that Saul tried to pin David to the wall with a javelin. This happened more than once. David decided it was time to leave. He left to save his life. Then Saul began to have one main goal in his life. That goal was to destroy David. but David ran for his life from place to place for years. Every time he would settle in a place here would come Saul. He gradually was worn down by his enemy. He became afraid of Saul. We can overcome if we do not let fear overcome us. In Job 3:25 Job spoke some great wisdom. *“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.”* What we fear will come against us. Fear is like a hole in the wall of our faith. Fear will cause a break to come in our spiritual walls. Another thing that fear will do is to cause us to act in ways that aren't sound. make some of the dumbest decisions because of fear. God leads us with peace. The devil drives us with fear. Never let the devil drive you. Get God's peace before you make decisions. David let fear get to him. I Samuel 27:1 David began to fear Saul. This was his decision based on fear. *“And David said in his heart, ‘Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will [a]despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.’”* It took several years for Saul to get to him, but the persistence of the enemy began to wear him down. The devil will do just the same to us, if we aren't careful. David chose to go to land of the Philistines to hide. He chose to go to the enemies' camp to live. Because of fear, David wasn't thinking with a clear mind. Another thing that amazes about all this, is that the Philistines let David live there. He even gained favor with Achish the king who gave him a city to live in called Ziklag. He moved in with the enemy because of his fear, and compromised, settling right in with them. He moved to the enemies' camp and dwelled with them. If we aren't careful fear can drive us into compromise as well. We will move into the enemies' camp and eventually talk ourselves into believing that this is God's will for us. It is never God's will that we settle for less than the full riches and victory of the Lord. It wasn't God's will for David either. It was the enemies' plan. When we fall into the enemies' plan, we pay. David was in a dangerous position. When we are camping in the enemies' camp we have to explain and justify our presence to the enemy. David had to start looking bad to Philistines to be able to live in their midst. In I Samuel 27:8-9, *“And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt. And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.”* He went to the border of Israel and attacked cities who were traditionally enemies with Israel. He killed all the people there, so that there wouldn't be anyone left to tell about his attack. He took all the goods from the people that he had attacked to Achish, the king, and presented it as though he had attacked Israel. He had settled in with the enemy, but he hadn't gone to the place where he came against God's people. He had lost his integrity, but he hadn't lost his mind. *“And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant forever.”*(v.12) That sounds like the devil doesn't it. He will boast we are his servants forever. God had better plans for this soon to be king. It looked like David was doing pretty well in enemies' camp. If you are compromising out of fear, you fail to rise up, then your enemy will eventually overtake you. The devil can give you a false sense of security to live there and settle in with the enemy, but eventually it will cost you. Things began to turn around to the worse for David. We get a hint of what is about to happen in I Samuel 28:1-2. There was to be a battle. This would be the war between the Philistines and Israel. King Achish gave David a place of honor, putting confidence in him, and believing he was hearty in engaging in the war with the Philistines against Israel. David was either going to have to come against God's people, or he was going to have to face the Philistines. If you compromise with the devil, you will wind up coming against God's people, even if this was not in your plans. It may be through your disobedience or through your allowing a spirit of the enemy to attach itself to you and use you against God's people.

God had a plan to rescue David

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David had allowed himself to be put into a position where it looked like he had to come against God's people to save his own self. His compromise had ended up with his being an enemy to God's own. However, God had a plan to rescue him. Praise God for His mercy. The princes of the Philistines gathered together. They let it be known to the king that they wouldn't even go into battle with a Philistine killer. They reminded King Achish of the song that they had heard sung about David killing his ten thousand. The devil will know who you are and your stand against him. What a tragedy to wind up in his camp and hear words of victories that you had left behind repeated back to you through the enemies' lips. Things were ready to get worse from there. David got out of that situation, but worse was on its way. That is just what happens right before God gets ready to move. While David was in Jezreel, playing the fool to King Achish, the Amalekites invaded Ziklag, his home. They were some of the tribes that David had attacked and killed men, women, children so that King Achish wouldn't know who he had attacked. They weren't happy with David. They attacked while he was gone.

The opening verses of 1 Sam. 30 tell us that the Amalekites had made a raid on Ziklag. When they raided Ziklag, they burned it and took the women and children captive. When King David with his army arrived, everyone was grieved over the situation and wept. *So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had not more power to weep.* After David arrived the people appear to have blamed David for the tragedy. Whatever their reason, they wanted to stone him. *And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons, and for his daughters...* David was greatly distressed. Have you settled for walking in the flesh and not in the Spirit, Have you ever come home to find that the devil had stolen all you had? Have you found that he had stolen your finances, or your family, or your health? Maybe he has stolen your faith. Or he may have stolen that "first love" that you had for the Lord. Maybe you are going through this now. Sometimes these things have to happen so that we turn around and get the right priorities and perspectives in our lives. In Ziklag, David got real with his situation for the first time. The story of what came next is a light to all of us who might be walking in that same enemies' camp. David trusted God for his safety and security even in the "valley of the shadow of death." The key to going through difficult times is trusting God. Verse 17 tells us that God enabled David to rescue his wives and all the captives The Bible tells us in verse 6 that David "*encouraged himself in the Lord*".

When David turned around, God was there. The total direction of his life was changed that day. He then did something in verse 7 and 8 that he hadn't done in years. These verses tell us that David enquired of the Lord. If you look up how many times prior to Ziklag that David enquired of the Lord, and how many times after that, you'll find that it was many times. In every major decision he would enquire of the Lord what to do before he moved. If the Lord said not to go, he didn't. However, when we read about his coming to the Philistines, we find that there he didn't enquire. He didn't enquire from that time to this. Praise God, he was back on speaking terms with the Lord and the Lord was ready to change his life. Verse 8 tells God's answer to David. *"And David enquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all."* We read on to find that is exactly what David did. three days after he returned to Ziklag in victory a messenger came to tell him that Saul was dead. Saul had been killed in battle. The stage was now set for David to be king. You may be going through your own enemies' camp where you have been living at your own Ziklag. It may be because you have shrunk back in obeying God and stepping out in faith to do something that He has for you to do. It may be that the devil has brought fear against you that has bound you. Either way, if you are in the enemies' camp and you are at a place where you have come to yourself, shake yourself and remember David. Encourage yourself in the Lord. Go back to the place where you left Him. When He tells you to pursue your enemies, go forth in His name. Overtake your enemy and recover all.

It is our right as children of God not only to be able to endure the enemy, but to overcome the enemy as well. We have been given the right to walk right into his camp and take back what is stolen. All must be seen in the Spirit. Instead of rising up to be overcomers, victorious in our walk with God, we settle for weakness. Instead of facing the enemy, we allow him to rock us to sleep. A victorious life in Christ has been paid for with the precious price of His own blood at the cross of Calvary. Jesus died not to become compromisers, weak and double minded, afraid of the enemy. He died to give us all the rights that we are entitled to as being Sons of God. He died to give us authority over the enemy through His precious blood that He shed there on the cross. He died to be able to send us His Spirit to fill us so that we could not only overcome, but conquer and recover all as well. The enemies' camp is ours if we will walk in all the victory that God has given us by His Word, the blood of Jesus, in the name of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit in us. Where are your enemies' camps? What territory has God promised you through His Word that He has spoken into your heart? God is faithful. We can rise up in all that God has promised. We can inherit the land. We can overcome and the enemies' camp. There would never be a victory unless we had a battle. When we learn to praise God for the battle, we are close to victory. When we can see how blessed we are in the trials and in the midst of the battle, then we will be encouraged in our heart, and in our faith. Then we will be ready to go into the enemies' camp. Victory belongs to the children of God. Hallelu-Yah!

So what about our own enemies' camps? What about those personal battles that we face every day? One of the hardest of these is found when we become our own enemy. In Romans 7:18-25, *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.* This section of scripture is followed by chapter 8:1 *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* However, when we quote this verse we often overlook closing phrase. We must walk in the Spirit. If we want to overcome battle then we have to walk in the Spirit.

The rest of Romans 8 gives us guidelines for walking in the Spirit. If we want to overcome this battle that we have with ourselves, then we have to walk in the Spirit. You have a Spirit side (Jesus in you through the Holy Spirit). You also have the old man, which is your flesh man. The one that you feed the most will be the one that controls your life. Here is an example. Let's say your day is so full, you have no time left for prayer. Maybe once a week you open your Bible. If you have a minute to relax, you choose to unwind in front of the TV. Soon a minute of watching turns into a couple of hours. All that junk from there goes into your mind and spirit. When you have a minute to read, you pick up the latest novel instead of your Bible. Just like what we eat becomes a part of our physical body, what we take into our spirit, our mind and heart, becomes a part of us as well. Most of your conversation with others has nothing to do with God. Your day is filled with talking about the weather, the latest world's problems, what you had last night for supper, or what you are doing after work. You are almost embarrassed to talk about God. Religious things are private. Instead of listening to Gospel on the radio on the way to work, you switch on whatever happens to come on. Which are you feeding, the Spirit side, or your flesh side? Which will be the strongest in your life? When the devil comes in like a roaring lion to destroy you, are you standing in the power of God's Spirit and the promises of His Word? Who are you feeding the most?

If you know that you are not feeding the Spirit, then this is what to do. Realize your mistake. Repent, because these things are sin. Letting anything come between you and God is a sin. Ask Him to strengthen and help you in these areas. Wake up first thing in the morning and start your day in scripture reading or prayer. Proverbs 8:17 says, *"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."* Renew your relationship with Jesus. Remember what it's like to be in love. Psalm 42:1-2, *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"* David loved his Lord and longing for Him in his life.

Another thing that will help is fasting. Fasting is starving your body for the things that it craves, which is namely food. God called His people to fast and repent. In Joel 1:14 they were called on to fast. In Matthew 6, Jesus talks about fasting. Fasting helps you to put your flesh under subjection and let it know whose manager. Another benefit of a fast in Matthew 17:20-21. The disciples were upset because they were not able to have authority over a demon that they were praying out of someone. Jesus answered them *"Because of your unbelief; ... However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."* the devil can bind you and he can bind others you love, and the circumstances around both of you. By fasting you bring out evil spirit and do Spiritual warfare. Through walking in the Spirit, we can overcome enemies' camp of self.

Another enemies' camp that we must overcome is the battle with satan. We must know the authority that Jesus has given us, the church. We have the blood of Jesus. Word of God. We must however, walk in the Spirit to do so. We have authority given us by the name of Jesus. All of these things give us authority over satan. We just have to learn how to use them, know that they will all work in our behalf. We have the power/authority and all that we need to overcome this enemy. We are in a spiritual battle and we had better learn how to take spiritual authority to be able to win this battle. The weapons that we have are not carnal. If we are in a ministry, that battle is compounded by the fact that not only will the devil come against us personally, but he will also come against the ministry that the Lord has given us. He means to keep us from doing that which God intends for us to do. All of us are in this spiritual warfare, if we are children of God.(EPH 6:12)

Another enemies' camp that we may face may be those who come against us to destroy us. God promises the people of God that no enemy will be able to produce successful weapons against them *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, ... This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me, Says the Lord."*(ISA54:17)

Another enemies' camp that we can find ourselves in comes when the devil attacks our health. When He does, we need to remember it is God's will that we be in health and prosper. We don't have to stay sick. By His stripes we were healed. Satan is the author of sickness. When we can identify this, then we can rebuke it. We have a right as children of God to walk in healing. and part of your inheritance is the right to be healed. Stand on this knowledge and know who you are in God. When we are well, or sick, the devil specializes in condemning us. The best way to fight this condemnation is to ask God to reveal any sins that we haven't confessed and repented. If you have accepted salvation, and your sins are under the blood, you are a child of God. Instead of concentrating on trying to defend yourself on who you are in the natural, stand on who you are according to God's Word. God's Word declares some things about you. You need to start seeing yourself in the light of God's Word. Declare who you are and stand on it. As children of God we have the right to these things: Galatians 3:29 tells us, *"And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*