

Who Is Your Enemy?

#0356

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—December 14, 1976

Ephesians the 6th chapter and the 10th verse:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” Ephesians 6:10–11.

Then, he goes on and gives us the pieces of the Christian armor: the breastplate and the shield and the sword and the helmet and so forth. Are we in a battle? Yes, we are. But the secret I want to share with you this evening is this. My enemies are not men, they’re devils. My enemies are not men, they’re devils.

Now, it makes a great deal of difference if I know this in a practical way. It’s a wonderful thing to look any man in the face and know he’s not my enemy.

“Oh,” but somebody says, “Brother Frazee, don’t you have any enemies?”

Not any enemies that I have to fight. No. If anybody’s my enemy, the Lord tells me what to do with them in Matthew 5. What does He say to do with them? Love them. Did Jesus ever tell us to love the Devil? Did He? Do you know why? He’s our real enemy. He’s beyond redemption, hopelessly dedicated to trying to wreck the government of God in Heaven and in earth. He isn’t our friend, never was, never will be. The Devil is our enemy, and he’s got a number of devils associated with him. That’s what this is talking about:

“...principalities... powers... the rulers of the darkness of this world...” Ephesians 6:11.

And we are in a struggle, a fight, a battle, a warfare against *them*, but not against people.

“Well,” you say, “suppose a man *gets* killed with a Devil?”

Well, you know what Jesus did when He found people that were filled with the Devil? He cast out the Devil. He wasn’t the enemy of those *people*, and He didn’t deal with those *people* as His enemies. He certainly didn’t put Himself in the role of being the enemy to those people, did He? No, no. He prayed for His murderers, and some of them accepted Him, too. Jesus did not consider any soul beyond the

reach of divine love. The men that spit in His face, that beat Him, that made that crown of thorns and pressed it down on His brow, He loved them all. This is divine love, isn't it?

So, Paul says:

“...we wrestle not against flesh and blood...” Ephesians 6:12.

Other translations put it very clearly. Our enemies are not people, they're not human beings. Our foes, the people we're fighting, what are they? Who are they? They're devils, usually unseen but just as real.

Now, this has a very practical application, brothers and sisters. It means that nobody is in my way. Nobody is somebody I've got to push out of the way so I can get where I'm going. This attitude is the spirit of the enemy.

Desire of Ages puts it this way in page 436:

“He [Lucifer] sought for himself the highest place, and every being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same”
Desire of Ages, page 436.

What was Lucifer looking for? The highest place. He already had it, as far as creatures are concerned, but he wanted something higher and the only person he could think to topple was Christ.

“...and every being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same. Thus alienation, discord, and strife will be inevitable.... The kingdom of Satan is a kingdom of force; every individual regards every other as an obstacle in the way of his own advancement, or as a stepping stone on which he himself may climb to a higher place” *Ibid*.

Now, did you notice in the kingdom of Satan how every individual regards every other individual? As a what? Obstacle or a stepping stone. If he's an obstacle, he's a stumbling stone, isn't he? If he's the other, he's a what? A stepping stone. Either way, he's a stone. That's all he is. He's just a rock. A rock to be pushed out of the way, or a rock to step on, on our way up. This is the kingdom of Satan. Do you like it? Would *you* like to be pushed out of the way for somebody? Would you like to be stepped on so somebody else can go higher?

Well, there's something worse than that, friends. There's something worse than being a stumbling stone or a stepping stone. You know what it is? It's using other people that way. That's the worst thing. That's the spirit of whom? Satan.

“Well,” somebody says, “if we're in a world where everybody in Satan's kingdom has that attitude, how can we *keep* from being either stumbling stones in people's way or else stepping stones that they step on us?”

Ah friends, let me have you turn over to 2 Corinthians 4:15, the first line, and tell me what this means. What does that say?

“For all things are...” 2 Corinthians 4:15.

What?

“...for your sakes...” 2 Corinthians 4:15.

So, people may look at *me* as a stumbling stone in their road to be pushed out or as a stepping stone on which they can rise to power, but if I belong to Jesus, they can't do anything against me. Anything they do, is what? For me. Is that right?

And so we know, Paul says in Romans 8:28:

“...That all things...” Romans 8:28.

Do what?

“...work together for good to them that love God...”
Romans 8:28.

Many of us here tonight are young people. That's fine. God has a wonderful work for our boys and girls and our young men and women. And let me whisper a secret in your ears, children and youth. Somewhere along the line, you'll see somebody that you think is in your road. And if you could only get them out of the way, then you'd have what they have. Or you think that something belongs to you and they're trying to get it away from you.

Remember, our study tonight is our enemies are not men. That means men and women, boys or girls. Our enemies are who? Devils. And God won't let the Devil hurt us if we abide with Jesus. And He certainly won't let human beings interfere with His plan for us if we're willing. Nothing in the world can touch us except by His permission.

Notice how it's put here in *Ministry of Healing*, page 489. I think this is one of the most wonderful paragraphs ever written:

“The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and

circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us" *Ministry of Healing*, page 488–489.

Now, Jesus believed this so fully that when the mob came and started to take Him, He submitted. He knew that His hour had come. And when Peter tried to help Jesus out by doing what? Fighting for Him. What did Peter do? He drew a sword and cut a man's ear off.

Jesus said, "Peter, don't do that. In the first place, if you do, you're liable to get hurt. He who takes the sword will perish by the sword. In the second place, My Father could give Me twelve legions of angels now, a whole legion of angels for every one of you disciples. But in the third place Peter, the cup which My Father hath given Me to drink, shall I not drink?" [a paraphrase of John 18:11].

Was the Father really holding that cup to Jesus' lips? Why sure. Christ had settled that there in the garden before the mob came, hadn't He? Christ had settled that He was willing to go ahead in the blood-stained path and accept all the suffering and sorrow and pain because He knew two things. He knew His Father was in charge, and He knew His Father wouldn't let anything happen to Him unless it was necessary for the salvation of others.

And so, Jesus didn't look upon those people that were treating Him that way as enemies that He was to fight. He accepted that which the Father allowed. And you remember, turn over to John and see what He said to Pilate, John the 18th chapter 36th verse. Pilate had asked Him if He was a king. See, the Jews had charged that He was making Himself a king. And Jesus answered:

"...My kingdom is not of this world..." John 18:36.

Then, all together the next:

"...if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence" John 18:36.

If Christ's kingdom had been a kingdom of this world, He said His servants would do what? Fight. If His enemies were the people of this world, then He would train His men as soldiers, and they would fight other human beings. But Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. Our enemies are spiritual. We wrestle not against human beings. Thank God, I'm not in a fight with this man. I'm not trying to kick him out of the way so I can go on. And I'm not trying to step on him, so I can go up. And I'm not afraid of what he's going to do to *me*. Right? I don't have to have any of those fears. Why not? Because I belong to Christ's spiritual kingdom.

Do I have a battle on? Oh yes, but not with *this* man or any other man. My enemies are what? Devils, unseen. Oh friend, isn't it wonderful to know where to put our energies and where not to waste them?

Suppose as we come up to the tracks here, we see a train there, and we see an engine on one end and we see an engine on the other. The train would

have to be smaller or shorter than most of those that pass for us to see what I'm talking about, but you and I have seen some short trains there once in a while, haven't we?

Now, I want you to visualize, there are those cars, we'll say a dozen cars, and here's an engine at the one end, and it's headed toward Nashville. And the engine on the other end of the same train is headed toward Chattanooga. And each one of them is just working for all it can do, this one to go that way, the other one to go this way.

Well, we'd either smile or frown, wouldn't we? Yes. And this is what happens, my dear friends, whenever two of us are pulling one against the other. We are wasting energy.

"Ah," but somebody says, "I know that what he's trying to do is just what shouldn't be done."

Well, our problem then is not with him, it's with the Devil. And our weapons, the weapons of our warfare, are not carnal. They're not earthly [a paraphrase of 2 Corinthians 10:4]. I'm not to get a big club and beat my brother down because he's pulling in the wrong direction. I'm not to get a sword to cut his ear off. No. And I'm not to take *this* sword, you know "this sword"? That's right. The Bible speaks of it as a sword. And it's a worse sword than anything that ever came out of a scabbard. I'm not to take that and fight my brother.

"Ah, but he fought me. Did you hear what he said about me? Believe me, I'm going to tell what I know about him. It isn't pretty."

Then, we have a what? We have a wrestling match. Then, we're outside our text. Paul says:

"...We wrestle *not* against flesh and blood..." Ephesians 6:12.

We're not engaged in a battle of will or wits, of muscle or mind.

Now you see, the people of this world, poor hearts, they're trained in just the opposite of what I'm talking about tonight. From the time they're out of the cradle all the way through, it's an effort to get ahead of somebody, to beat somebody, to win over somebody. And the way you win in the world is for somebody else to lose. That's the way it is, isn't it? Sure. It's no fun if everybody can succeed. Isn't that a strange idea?

Now, I heard our dear administrator a few minutes ago tell about some blessings that were going to be shared Sunday morning. Will any of you be over there?

But now suppose, now just suppose that Brother Vital would say, "I'll tell you what we're going to do. We're going to give the prizes to those that run the fastest to get there."

Or, "We're going to give the prizes to those that can answer the most questions out of a certain list of questions."

Or, "We're going to give the prizes to so and so, on some other scale."

In other words, in order to get something, making it necessary that somebody else can't get it. This is the principle that the world runs on. The Devil never has enough prizes for everybody, but God *does*, see? And God won't let anybody else take yours.

"Ah," but somebody says, "I know better, Brother Frazee. I wanted a job once, and I applied for it, but somebody else came in and got it."

Listen, are you sure God wanted you to have that job? If God *really* wanted you to have that job, He didn't want anybody else to have it, and nobody else could *get* it if you're working with Him. And that isn't taking it from anybody else. But if God wants somebody else to have it, do you want Him to take it *from* that person so you can have it? Is that what you want to do? Ah, no.

Jacob, you see, he got the idea that the way for him to get the blessing was to scheme and figure and maneuver it away from whom? From Esau, his brother. Did he get it? Yes, but the pitiful thing was God wanted him to have it in the long run, and if he'd only gone at it God's way, he wouldn't have had to lie, or scheme, or steal, or anything else. In God's own time and way, he would have had it, without sorrow, without all that repentance that became necessary.

Ah dear ones, what I'm talking about tonight is the joy of knowing that you're not trying to get anything from somebody else, that your enemies are not men and women, boys and girls, you're not trying to compete with somebody, you're not trying to, certainly not trying to steal from anybody. You're not trying to get something from somebody else anyway, any method. You're trying to help how many people? Everybody.

Was Jesus trying to help His murders? Oh, yes. He prayed for them, didn't He?

And so, we can look at any man and say in our hearts, "You're not my enemy. You're not my enemy. I'm *your* friend. You're not *my* enemy. I'm your friend. You may think you're here to try to get something away from me, but bless your heart, I'm here to help you get the greatest riches of eternity."

Wesley, the great Methodist revivalist, made many trips on horseback, going from place to place and preaching. He preached to thousands of people. And he was traveling on all hours of the day and night. And one time going from one place to another on a lonely road, he was accosted by a robber. And the man threatened to take his life and demanded his purse.

Wesley said, "Although I would not give my life to save my purse, I would give it to save thy soul."

And he started working for his soul right there. There was something Wesley was more interested in than preserving either his money or his life. What was it? To win that man, to win that man.

Now, that isn't something you practice and enact on the stage. Oh no. It came from deep down in his heart. Wesley understood what we're studying about tonight. The Christian's enemies are invisible. Every man is somebody that he's seeking to help.

And so, every person that you and I meet, our brothers and sisters on campus, patients in the sanitarium, people we meet out in the business world, our great thought is, "How can I help this person? What can I do to help them? Oh, they might take advantage of me."

Ah, that isn't the point. Did they take advantage of Jesus? Oh, yes. Will they take advantage of you? Yes, they'll take advantage of you. They will think that you're either a stumbling stone to be kicked out of the way or else a stepping stone on which to mount. But the Christian doesn't have to worry about that. That's all in God's hands.

Ah friends, let's turn now to Philippians the second chapter third verse:

"Let nothing..." Philippians 2:3.

How much is that? Nothing.

"Let nothing be done through strife..." Philippians 2:3.

That's rivalry, competition, trying to beat somebody.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" Philippians 2:3–4.

Let's think of it in our departments, in our homes, in our divisions. Is my first great business to ensure that *my* part of the work gets ahead of everybody else? No, no. My business, my dear friends, is to try to help every other department and every other home. Is that right?

You know, something just comes to my mind. You may think I planned the subject to say what I'm going to say, but actually, I never thought about it till this minute. But I think I'll mention it. It might help somebody.

Suppose there are some products up in the commissary, some groceries or produce that needs moving.

But suppose I say, "Well, I think I can get that cheaper somewhere else."

If I'm thinking first of all of *my* budget, personally or in my home, if I'm thinking first of all of how things are going to affect *me*, I might just say, "Oh well, the commissary, that's their hard luck. They should have known better than to buy that stuff at such a price."

But my dear friends, is the commissary a part of this work here, just as much as a treatment room over there? And shall I say, just as much as this chapel? Yes. And so, I *want* to help the commissary. Is that right? Might that help us a little once in a while, Brother Administrator?

Now, as I say, that wasn't my subject, but it illustrates my subject. We're members one of another. And our job is not to advantage ourselves, not to be studying, "How can I get ahead at the expense of others?"

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" Philippians 2:4.

Now, *oh* these next verses:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a..." Philippians 2:5-7.

What?

"...a *servant*, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" Philippians 2:7-8.

See the step by step down? There He was, way up there in the throne of God, equal with the Father. Down He steps, down, down, down. He becomes a man, made in the likeness of our humanity. And then, among men, He becomes a what? A servant. And *then*, He becomes obedient unto death and even the death of the cross. Could He have gone lower? No. No way. And at every step, it was by choice because He loved us. Ah, dear ones, I pray that we shall see the Pattern.

Now, notice the next verse:

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow..." Philippians 2:9-10.

And dear ones, those who follow Jesus in this path of humiliation and service will one day share the throne with Him through eternal ages. But the great reason for doing it is not to get the throne. Oh, no. If that's our motive, we'll get tired and quit before we ever get there. Oh, no. The great reason for doing it is because God has put that love in our hearts for others. Do you see?

So, this evening we wrestle not against flesh and blood. Our enemies are not people, nothing we need to be envious of. In our departments, in our homes, this brother, that sister isn't in my road.

"Oh, but they are, Brother Frazee. You just don't know where I have to live or where I have to work. You just don't know what I have to put up with."

"All things are..." 2 Corinthians 4:15.

What?

"...are for your sakes" 2 Corinthians 4:15.

Are they?

"...All things are for your sakes..." 2 Corinthians 4:15.

"...All things work together for good to them that love God..."
Romans 8:28.

Do you love God? So, no man is your enemy. Your enemy is what? The Devil, the Devil. And you're to be what to people? A friend, a friend to everybody. And so, if you think somebody thinks they're working against you, ask God to help you to do something to help those people. Don't get *your* sword out if they look like they're getting *their* sword out. Oh, no. No, no.

"...the weapons of our warfare are *not* carnal..."
2 Corinthians 10:4.

Thank God, we're wrestling with the Devil, and our weapons are *not* the weapons of hell. We're not borrowing the Devil's artillery to fight him with. Our weapon is faith in Jesus, love for Jesus, loyalty to Jesus, and to share that spirit of service. And if we get persecuted, all right. Isn't that what's going to happen to us in the Loud Cry? Yes. We'll be like lambs, thank God, and stand *with* the Lamb on Mt Zion.

Well, we've got three minutes left. If somebody would like to stand and tell us something you got tonight that's going to bless your soul, just take a sentence to do it.

All right. Let's stand.

'tis love that makes us happy,
'tis love that smooths the way;
It helps us mind, it makes us kind
To others every day.

God is love; we're His little children.
God is love; we would be like Him.

'tis love that makes us happy,
'tis love that smooths the way;
It helps us mind, it makes us kind
To others every day."
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #579, first stanza.

God bless you all. You're dismissed.

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