

Psalm 139:19-22

The Enemies of God

Calling someone an enemy of God is a pretty strong statement, but, that's what King David does in our verses. He's definitely not worried about being banned from Twitter, Facebook or Instagram for violating community standards. Another verse, Ps 7:11, is translated "God is angry with the wicked every day." (KJV). Turning to the last book of the Bible, Revelation, it's easy to see the enemies of God are not match for His Sovereignty. The first book in the Bible, Genesis, also reveals God is capable of dealing with rebels. For now, there's time for an enemy to become a friend of God. Sometimes, the most _____ thing you can do is to tell a person about the _____ of God that even now is upon them.

I. David's Plea to God. vs 19

King David, having pondered the glory of God's omnipresence and omniscience, simply has a desire for God to destroy those who are His enemies. This is not a _____ for David. Imagine a criminal committing crimes right in front of the _____ who is to _____ him! That criminal needs to understand not one _____ sin will go unpunished.

The word wicked here has the sense of _____, wicked purposes, it is wickedness that is _____. David's plea? _____.

II. David's Plea to _____ vs 19

He directly addresses the wicked here to _____. People who delight in cruelty, verbal or otherwise, are not fit companions to those who walk with God. (Charles Spurgeon).

One author wrote "when we have a controversy with the wicked we should take heed that private spleen does not rule us, but our only interest is God's quarrel with them.." So, make sure your issue with that wicked person doesn't become personal and remember the _____ that person has coming. It would be easy for us to take some pleasure in the truth of that last statement but even God Himself doesn't take pleasure in the death of the wicked. We shouldn't take pleasure in the thought of the wicked being judged.

III. David Describes Evil Men. vs 20

David first calls them "men of _____." These men had committed brutal acts and were even described as _____. They had spoken against Jehovah, using His name in _____. They don't even bother to _____ Spurgeon wrote "God gave these men their _____ and they turn against their benefactor?"

IV. David's Question to God. vs 21

David, according to Spurgeon, was a _____. He only hated those who hated _____. Another quote "To hate a man for his own sake, or for any evil done to

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us, would be wrong; but to hate a man because he is a foe of all goodness and the enemy of righteousness, is nothing more nor less than an _____."

David then expresses that he _____ those who hate God.

V. David's Conclusion. vs. 22

David wrote that those who hate God deserve to be called the enemies of God and _____

John Calvin: "I hate them with perfection of hatred." This hard for us but these words ought to remind us we have a holy God who will judge sin. He _____ sin so much and _____ his people so much that _____

While the wicked are the enemies of God, as the body of Christ we are called to _____ them.

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Nehemiah 5:14-19

The Leader's Example

Chapter 4 revealed opposition outside the city and how Nehemiah handled that. In this 5th chapter we have read about Nehemiah dealing with opposition within the city of Jerusalem. The workers had severe difficulties as they worked on the wall and tried to feed their families and pay their bills. They appealed to Nehemiah and he listened. Remember that Nehemiah got angry but took some time to respond. Eventually, those who were guilty of abusing their fellow Jews agreed to return what had been taken. One thing to note is that what Nehemiah writes about here is 12 years later.

I. Nehemiah's Example

Nehemiah was appointed governor of Judah. This is the first mention of his official capacity there. He ruled from 445 to 433BC. In this capacity, he was allowed (and it was common in the Persian kingdom) for governors to collect taxes, food, wine from the governed.

- A. Nehemiah ____ use the food allowance.
- B. Nehemiah ____ impose _____ on the people.

Nehemiah was able to give these things up because he knew something even better: his love for Jehovah and

his love for God's people. In this act, Nehemiah is most definitely a _____.

Nehemiah could have used the additional money for the city's treasury but he also knew these taxes would dishearten the people.

In other administrations, the subordinates of the governor would go through a province and collect taxes, sometimes brutally doing so but not in Nehemiah's. vs 16 reveals that Nehemiah and his men continued to work right alongside everyone else on the wall. Nehemiah also didn't go to Washington and become a millionaire. He didn't become a landowner while he was there.

II. Nehemiah's Wealth

One of the duties of a governor was to entertain dignitaries as they traveled to and from Susa. Nehemiah routinely had _____ at his table. It would have been easy for him to use the "king's allowance" on his table but _____. He paid for the food out of his own provision. If he did this for the 12 years, that's 4,380 oxen and 26,280 sheep, not even counting the fowl.

Nehemiah understood his resources came from Jehovah and determined to glorify Him with those funds. What motivated him? The _____ of God. Do you really fear God? Do you fear Him enough that what you do, what you say, what you think is governed by that fear?

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Nehemiah didn't demand of his brothers and sisters what they could not pay. When he saw his brother in a ditch, he didn't go to the other side of the road to miss him.

III. Nehemiah's Prayer

Martin Luther wrote that Christianity consists principally in personal pronouns. The LORD is MY shepherd...The Son of God loved ME and gave Himself for ME.

Nehemiah, far from being arrogant in this prayer, desired that his labor would result in great fruit for Jehovah, His people and His city.