

10-12). God used his courage to do the right thing and a large church was formed in Antioch with Gentiles and Jews. It is where foreign missions was born. (Acts 13)

One day some of these “big shots” came to Antioch and when they saw Jews and Gentiles sitting together to eat, they said this was not right. The Jewish Christians stopped eating with them and even Simon Peter joined them.

Paul wasn't there and when he returned and saw this he said he told Peter, to his face, **“What you are doing is not right.”** (Gal.2) I'll bet the hair bristled on the back of the neck of the big, strong fisherman, and he thought or said, “Who asked you? What makes you the arbiter of right and wrong?” But years later, writing to the churches, Peter called Paul his **“beloved brother.”** {2 Pet. 3:15} The time came when Peter thanked Paul for being brave enough to tell him the truth

ENEMIES ARE NEEDED

Ps. 3; 2 Sam. 16:5-14 We should listen to people who *don't like us*. God forgave David when he committed adultery and had the woman's husband killed to hide what he had done (2 Samuel 11-12). But, as always, He did not take away the harmful consequences of his actions. The nation began to crumble and David's family began to crumble.

His son Absalom gathered troops against him, and David, the once-strong giant killer, was forced to leave Jerusalem. It was a sad scene when he and his soldiers walked slowly from the city, with people weeping out loud, on each side of the road.

For whatever reason, some people love to kick us when we are down. From the crowd, a man named “Shimei” stepped out; cursed

David; threw rocks at him and told him he was getting what he deserved. One of David's soldiers wanted to go over and cut his head off. But David said **“No – God might be speaking through him.”**

People who don't like us, like prowling bloodhounds, will look for things we are doing wrong and broadcast them. We need them and our friends.

Friends point out where we need to change and enemies are right sometimes and do the same. And when they are not, and do it to hurt us, they teach us how to be willing to forgive.

An author at a book signing was asked what she thought of another writer. She had only the highest accolades and compliments for her. Someone said, “Don't you know all the bad things she is saying about you and your writings? The lady said, “Sure I do. But you did not ask me what *she* thought of me, you asked me what *I* thought of her.

Handling criticism well is the acid test of true humility.

A family came home from church and the father said, the preacher's sermon was too long. The daughter said she didn't like the song the choir sang. The mother said the sanctuary was too cold. The little boy said, “To me, it was a pretty good show for two dollars”

When we point at someone, we need to remember we have three fingers pointing back at us

**Google Teddy Roosevelt's quote,
“The Critic”**