

***Themes in the Life of David***  
***Lesson 3 – The Enemies of David – When Worlds Collide***  
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**Introduction:** Everyone lives in a world of his choosing.

- A. In the physical realm this is not true.
  - 1. How many children have chosen their parents ?
  - 2. There does come a time where they can choose.
- B. We do come to choose a way of thinking in our hearts. **(Rom 12:1-2)**
  - 1. We are not born with such a mind. There does come a day to choose. **(Rom 7:9)**
  - 2. We all once made the wrong choice and suffered the consequences for it.  
**(Eph 2:1-3)**
- C. In the day of conflict our hearts are revealed. **(Psa 35:19-24)**
  - 1. David found himself with numerous enemies both within and without Israel.
  - 2. Each man that day responded according to the “world” he had chosen!
  - 3. Do you know which world you are living in?

***I. Two worlds in contrast***

- A. How do you make your decisions? **(Rom 8:5-8)**
  - 1. The worldly person looks within to the things seen and is self-centered.
  - 2. The Godly person looks to God. He seeks the council of the unseen.
- B. The “strengths” of worldliness **(1 Jn 2:15-17)**
  - 1. **The lust of the flesh** – We have God given desires and emotional needs. Do we control them or do they control us?
  - 2. **The lust of the eyes** – We make judgments on the things we see. What is reality? What will really last? **(1 Cor 7:29-31)**
  - 3. **The pride of life** – It is easy to compare yourself to others and gain “esteem” from that. This desire is like a drug addiction that must be fed an increased.
- C. Choosing between the two.
  - 1. Both worlds provide a fulfillment.
    - a. One is temporary and is based on the events of life. These events in life and our own bodies are constantly changing.
    - b. The other is permanent as long as you stay in this “world.”  
**(Jn 14:27; 16:22-23)**
  - 2. Both worlds have certain advantages.
    - a. One is a default choice. Do nothing and you will be in it. The other must be chosen daily.
    - b. One is chosen based on human sight while the other is based on that which is “unseen” by the human eye but visible to the one who has faith.  
**(Heb 11:24-27)**
    - c. One world will have nearly everyone who walks with you while the other will have only a few.

***Class Discussion:***

1. What two possible worlds can we live in? How do we come to live in the world we choose?
2. How does the worldly man make decisions? Are they reasonable?
3. How does the spiritual man make decisions?
4. What do worldly people think about the values and choices of spiritual people?
5. What advantages come to those that live “in the flesh?”
6. What are the challenges to live in a spiritual world?

***II. David’s Mighty Enemy – King Saul***

A. Saul’s problem was never David but rather his surrender to the temptations of Satan.

1. Saul was tempted by concerns for his reputation among the people. Will he be a “winning” or a “losing” coach? He faces a major crisis at Gilgal.

**(1 Sam 13:5-12)**

2. Saul was concerned mostly with self-Justification. **(1 Sam 15:15, 19-20)**
  - a. He was more concerned with why he did it rather than what he did.
  - b. Saul desired to be righteous before men. **(1 Sam 15:30)**.
  - c. Did Saul repent? **(1 Sam 15:24-25)**

"True repentance hates the sin, and not merely the penalty; and it hates the sin most of all because it has discovered and felt God's love." - W. M. Taylor

3. Saul became David’s enemy because of envy. **(1 Sam 18:7-9)**
  - a. This is why the Jewish leaders killed Jesus. **(Mk 15:10)**
  - b. This is a common problem within the church.

4. How can David win against the king?

B. How can we have an enemy “without a cause?”

**1. Because he talked about you. (Prov 26:28)**

- a. When a person tells a lie to another about you, they have at least two ways to respond.
- b. Repent and correct the lie.
- c. Tell more lies and attack the one lied against. This may make it believable.
- d. When a person’s focus is on the image of the person, watch out! Many like to build a caricature of the person and then push that image.
- e. In time when people know the person, they will see the lie.
- f. The goal of the enemy is to deny any association with others.

**2. Because He mistreated you.**

- a. This is similar to the above point. Here are a few possibilities:
- b. A debt that is not paid.
- c. A misrepresentation on a transaction. (Cheating)
- d. Job interference. Ex. Someone tries to get you fired.
- e. For the Christian, this temptation is removed if we confess our wrongs.

**(Jas 5:16)**

**3. Because He considers you a threat. (3 John 9-10)**

- a. You may be a threat to their dignity, popularity, social standing, money, or their ability to control a church.
- b. Envy see to destroy its “competitors.”

***III. An enemy will use any weapon at his disposal***

- A. This is what you would expect when Satan is in control! (**Prov 14:29, 17**)
  1. Saul became a spear thrower! (**1 Sam 18:10-11**)
  2. There is no thought as to consequences or to really look at David’s innocence. What can David do?
- B. Saul pretended to care for David but actually wanted to harm him.
  1. He pushed for David to marry one of his daughters as an “honor” to him.
  2. His real motive was for David’s harm. (**1 Sam 18:17, 20-21, 25**)
  3. It takes time for David to learn the difference between what Saul said and what he thought!
  4. An angry man will blindly sacrifice his family for his anger. (**Eph 6:4**)
- C. Saul became in many ways a “spear thrower.” (**1 Sam 18:10-11**)
  1. What had David done? What should David do?
  2. Saul tried to line up others in his quest to destroy his “enemy.” See how he tempts his son Jonathan. (**1 Sam 20:30-31**)
  3. Jonathan was a man of principle and became a “spear target.”(**1 Sam 20:32-34**)
  4. Even Samuel knew that Saul would kill him if possible. (**1 Sam 16:2**)
  4. Self-pity and emotional charges became common with Saul. (**1 Sam 22:8**)
- C. What weapon did David have? He had faith in a living God.
  1. What did David do when he could have killed Saul? (**1 Sam 26:7-12**)
  2. Did Saul repent? (**1 Sam 26:21-27:1**)
  3. How did Saul come to an end? (**1 Sam 31:4-6**)

***Class Discussion:***

1. What were Saul’s first steps away from God?
2. How did David become a threat to Saul? From a worldly perspective, were his fears reasonable?
3. What limits a worldly person in those things that he pursues?
4. Do you believe that a spiritual person is at a disadvantage when confronted by a worldly enemy?
5. What happens when a spiritual person responds to hurt by following the example of the worldly enemy?

***III. Those Who Became Enemies of David Because of Saul***

- A. People can become an enemy without you doing a thing!
- B. Saul was very successful in lining up those in Israel that lived by the flesh.
  1. David spared the city of Keliath from the Philistines and thus should have been safe there. God revealed to him the real “loyalty” of these people.

**(1 Sam 23:11-12)**

2. Many out of fear or favor to an angry man will sell you out! Sadly some churches are filled with cowardly men who will not stand up.
  3. David found himself surrounded by new enemies because others wanted to please King Saul. Consider the Ziphites. **(1 Sam 23:19-20)**
  4. Please remember that God will stand with you when men run away. The greatest hurt will come from your brethren! **(Psa 55:4-5, 12-14)**
- C. Saul influence rose up years later in Shimei. **(2 Sam 16:5-13)**
1. What an incredibly foolish action!
  2. Consider these tests for bitterness. (See article) - a. Charges based on false premises. - b. Anger nurtured for years. - c. Rejoicing in another's misfortune. - d. Family desires placed before principle.

**IV. How can one "defeat" an unreasonable enemy?**

- A. Nothing will test your faith in God as much as dealing with an unreasonable, deceitful, hate-filled person.
1. A hard lesson to learn is that you cannot change another against their will!
  2. The Psalms are filled with pleas to God for deliverance from enemies. Let this draw you closer to God. **(Ps 13:2; 25:2, 19; 42:9-11)**
- B. Satan will strongly tempt you to become like your enemy.
1. What does the world say? Some Christians think that once someone "fires the first shot" then all "rules" are off!
  2. What did Jesus do with His enemies? **(1 Pt 2:21-24)**
    - a. Jesus responded this way because He trusted God.
    - b. We are greatly challenged to respond in the same way. **(Rom 12:17-21)**
- C. This adversity should cause you to draw closer to God. **(Psa 27:11-14)**
1. The world will scream at you: "Hit him back!"
  2. There is a calmness and a strength that come from knowing the battle is God's and that He will deliver. **(Psa 60:12; 61:2-4; 31:8)**
  3. While your enemy frets and plots in his self-defeating bitterness, you can move on and rejoice in the manifold blessings of God. **(Psa 23:4-6)**
  4. You also will draw closer to Christians! What a blessing!

**Conclusion:** Are you a child of God or an enemy of God?

- A. God will defeat every enemy in time. How will it be for you? **(Heb 1:13; 10:12-13)**
- B. God's love can defeat your bitterness if you would seek it.

**Class Discussion:**

1. Why were the people of Keliath willing to sell out David?
2. Why did Shimei become an enemy of David? Was he "sincere?"
3. Why does God allow enemies to come into our lives?
4. How can we let God defeat our enemies?.
5. Can we have an abundant life in the presence of our enemies? Is this good or bad for our enemies?

## *The Bitterness of Shimei*

*Steve Wallace*

Most have had to deal with the problem of bitterness at some time in their lives. You may have encountered it in another person or perhaps you were tempted to become bitter towards someone else. Bitterness generally does not exist by itself for long. Rather it leads to other sins. It is corruptive in nature. The problems that it causes in churches and relations between brethren in general are many.

David faced a bitter person at least once in his life. When he was fleeing Jerusalem in the face of Absalom's rebellion, a man named Shimei came out to curse him. The example of Shimei's bitterness helps us see both how one might be tempted to become bitter and the fruits of such bitterness.

### **2 Samuel 16:5-13**

And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. And he cast stones at David and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: The Lord hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the Lord hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man....And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along of the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.

### **His Bitterness**

**1. Based on false premises.** According to Shimei, David's suffering came upon him because "the Lord hath returned upon him all the blood of the house of Saul" (v.8). The idea behind blood returning upon someone is that of one's bearing guilt and suffering consequences of murdering someone (cf. **Matt. 27:25; Acts 5:28**). Whether Shimei was implying that David had something to do with the death of Saul or someone of Saul's house, the Bible shows that his charges were **false (1 Sam. 24:1-22; 26:1-25; 2 Sam. 4:1-12; 9:1-13)**. *Shimei's bitterness against David was groundless!* But is this not the case with bitter brethren today? They imagine insults or slights. In the event that bitterness is based on an actual occurrence, it often is the result of a deed that a brother either did out of concern for the bitter one's soul or a wrong of which he has repented and for which he has asked forgiveness (**James 5:19-20; Matt. 18:21-35**). Even when it is based on something that actually happened, bitterness is always wrong. There is no good reason to be bitter (**Eph. 4:31-32**).

**2. Nurtured for years!** A study of the book of 2 Samuel shows that Saul had been dead for at least twenty years at this point in the history of Israel! What a terrible

comment this is on the heart of one of God's people! Instead of filling himself with worthy thoughts he has utterly polluted himself with sinful ones! (**Phil. 4:8**) Bitterness is to be "put away," not nurtured (**Eph. 4:31**).

**3. Rejoiced at another's misfortune.** David and all the people with him were weeping as they fled from Absalom's forces (**2 Sam. 15:30**). The perverseness of bitterness is so clear at this point: The Bible shows the Christian's responsibilities to brethren who suffer (**Rom. 12:13-15; 2 Tim. 1:16-18**). Bitter people like Shimei have neither room in their heart for nor the inclination towards doing good to the objects of their bitterness, which brings us to our last point.

**4. Sets a terrible example.** The picture of Shimei publicly cursing David and throwing stones at him shows the shameless conduct that can result in those who harbor bitterness. The results of years of private seething ferments and, finally, when a convenient excuse is found, boils over in a torrent of abusive language or perhaps even physical harm. Thus it can come to pass that not only the bitter person and his enemy are affected, but rather "many be defiled" (**Heb. 12:15**).

### **Conclusion**

Shimei would later ask forgiveness of his sin against David (**2 Sam. 19:16-23**). If you have been guilty of harboring bitterness, pray to God that he will forgive you this sin (**Acts 8:22**). From this brief look at this sin I believe that we can all see that it is of the devil and needs to be treated as such.