

There's A Word That I Do Not Like!

The lesson this morning was on a "Word" that I love "FRIENDS". We all have a friend, even a very special friend that we cherish, but what about "ENEMIES"? The front cover sites Matthew 5:44 so we know that there are enemies out there.

The question is do we have enemies? If so, what made them your enemy? Is it something you said or did or possibly in spite of what you said or did? Is there something you can change that will enable them to reevaluate their position? Is that old adage true "Once your enemy always your enemy"?

Were you ever an enemy of someone? Did you say no? Are you sure? Before you answer consider this passage COL 1:21 "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled" or perhaps you were found in that number that were the enemies of the cross of Christ (PHI 3:18)"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, {that they are} the enemies of the cross of Christ:". God frequently tells us to do certain things because we, ourselves, were in that situation at one time or the other.

In Luke 1:71 Jesus came in order that we might be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

On one occasion Jesus was accused of being a glutton (MAT 11:19)"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, `Look, a gluttonous man and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." Would his friends accuse him of such? Certainly not! Only his enemies would have done that! Have you ever been betrayed by one of your friends? It happens,"Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up {his} heel against me."(PSA 41:9); Jesus was, Matthew 26:14,47-56. Here was a friend turned enemy! How do you think Jesus felt about this? On one occasion I have witnessed a young man, who by all appearances was in close friendship physically and spiritually with a brother, but false allegations against his friend were made, what ensued was an emotional circumstance that devoured that friendship. False witness was sought that they might accuse Jesus of lying (MAT 26:59-60). Man's emotions can be aroused to do things that he would not normally do(Matthew 26:65-70)"Then the high priest tore his

clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck {Him} with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before {them} all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."..." Here we sadly see even a close friend falling, letting his emotions control his thought process. Let me ask you this, how do you feel when you are sick and someone makes fun of you? Now suppose you were dying and they still made fun of you! How would you feel?

Pharisees, Sadducees, and lawyers were enemies of Jesus at various times. The following passages tell us about some of those occasions: Matt. 12:10, 14; 22:15; 26:4,6,7; Mark 3:2,6,22; 7:2; 11:18; 12:12,13; 14:1,10,55,64; 15:19,29; Luke 4:29; 6:7; 11:54; 20:20; John 5:16-18. In John 13:2, we learn that Satan was/is behind all the actions of the enemies of Jesus. Did Jesus treat his enemies as he has told us to treat our enemies? Luke 23:34 recorded this for us "Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."..."

Have you ever had a friend forsake you and become your enemy? Read John 6:66, and you will see many of Jesus' disciples forsaking him. How did he feel about this? Don't you think that Jesus knows how we feel when our friends forsake us? One of the most touching scenes in the Gospel is how some of the enemies of Jesus became friends (Acts 2:36,41). If Jesus could successfully react to his enemies, so that he himself would do no wrong, and at least some of those enemies would later become friends, it would seem that we can too! Don't you agree?