

## Steady Against The Foe

As Christians, we will have enemies for the sake of Christ (2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:19). How we deal with our enemies will be an indication of how closely we are walking with God. Enemies tend to scare us, but God wants us to be fearless before them (Proverbs 3:5-6; 29:25). In 2 Kings 6, the prophet Elijah was fearless before his enemies, and we can learn from his example.

First, his problem was caused by righteousness (2 Kings 6:8-14). Elisha was sharing Syria's war plans with the King of Israel. Elisha's knowledge came from God. When the King of Syria discovered that Elisha was doing this, he became Elisha's enemy and the king sent soldiers to apprehend him. Elisha got in trouble for doing what was right. We need to realize that when we do what is right, we will also make enemies. However, we must make sure that we are doing what is right and if we suffer, so be it (1 Peter 2:19-20; 3:16-17; 4:15-16).

Second, his protection came from God (2 Kings 6:15-17). Elisha was not upset because he knew God was protecting him. He asked God to show his servant the great heavenly host that had them protected. How grand a sight that must have been! We must remember that God has promised to protect us and He is able to take care of us even through "impossible" circumstances (Isaiah 41:10; Jeremiah 32:27; Hebrews 2:13-14; 1 John 4:4).

Third, his prayers brought victory (2 Kings 6:18). Elisha's prayer that his enemies would become blind was answered. This prayer did not result in permanent difficulty for his enemies, but enabled him to be delivered from their power. We must trust that God will answer our prayers (James 5:16-18). In Luke 18:1, Jesus had to teach His disciples that they should never lose heart in prayer.

Fourth, his plan called for love (2 Kings 6:19-23). Elijah "blessed" his enemies by feeding them and sending them home in peace. Our Lord Jesus expects us to act in like fashion (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:18-21). The end result of the kindness Elisha showed was a cessation of raids made on Israel's towns. You never know how much kindness can accomplish until you try it!

Do you think we can still master the foe? Certainly! Make sure that the manner in which you deal with your enemies reflects how closely you walk with the Lord. Remember, enemies will always plague the people of God. But you can be fearless before your enemies. I hope that examples like Elisha will help you to better offer yourself as a spiritual sacrifice to God.

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