

Deadly Enemy of Man



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Gen 3:1-5

1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

(KJV)

One of the earliest weapons of the devil against both spiritual and physical well-being of a man is enticement. He has, from time immemorial, been successfully using this weapon against humanity. The first time he used it was in the Garden of Eden. **Genesis 3:4-6a “4 And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6a And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food,”**

As a matter of fact, the fruit was not better looking than other fruits of the garden, but the mental picture that the devil painted about it suggested to the woman that the fruits was better than the ones God has generously given them to eat. Today, there are many good things of life that God has provided for humanity and His children in particular, but the enticement of the enemy has robbed many people of the joy and contentment in God’s benevolence. For example; if a man goes about chasing a woman who is not his wife, he is deluded and enticed to think that the strange woman possesses something that his wife does not have.

It is the lie of the devil when you think that a second marriage will give you

the joy that you did not have in the first. Read this confession of the first polygamist in history: **Genesis 4:19, 23** “**19 And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah... 23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt**”.

Though we may not have the full details of Lamechs lamentation in this passage, the fact remains that an increase in the number of his wives did not spare him from the agony that instigated this lament. Beloved, in what areas have you been deceived through the enticement of the devil? I pray that the enticement will loosen its grip over you from today in Jesus name.

Romans 7:18-25

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

(KJV)

The flesh is another deadly enemy of man. The flesh attacks the soul through its poisonous activities. These are listed in **Galatians 5:19-21** “**19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envy, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God**”.

The above listed activities of the flesh are deadly, primarily because they prevent a man from inheriting the kingdom of God. An enemy is not a serious one of it can only kill you, but cannot prevent you from making it to heaven. Jesus Christ said: **Mathew 10:28** “**And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**”.

Consequently, the flesh and its activities are very dangerous, but Christians have become so complacent that they sit back and allow these activities drag them off the track to heaven. The Bible says: **Proverbs 6:28, 32** “**28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? 29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour’s wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent...32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul**”. The works of the flesh can be destroyed through only one means and that means is Jesus Christ.

Luke 18:1-3 “**And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary**”.

In the School of Disciples of the ministry I oversee, one of the three principal Modules is: Know Your Enemy. It is very necessary that you identify who your enemies are. There is an adage in my native language which says: “When God

has revealed your enemies to you; they can no longer kill you.” The assumption is that once you can identify who your enemies are, you would be able to relate with them with caution so that they may not harm you. There is an interesting story in 1 Kings 2. David listed all his enemies and by extension Solomon’s enemies and counselled Solomon to do to them as a man does to his enemies (**1 Kings 2:5-6 “ Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace”**).

Enemies are of two categories: internal and external. One is more dangerous than the other. The internal enemy is more dangerous than the external one. The reason is that if the internal enemy does not open the door to the external enemy, then you are secure. We shall discuss the external enemy. For example, Goliath was an external enemy to David, and it was easy for David to kill him. You cannot afford to be gentle with the enemy because if you do not get him first, he will get you. The Almighty is very specific when He said you are “to love your neighbour as yourself,” not more than yourself.

In other words, you have to make sure you are secure first before you begin to discuss the security of your neighbour. When the woman in our Bible passage today prayed to the judge: “avenge me of my adversary”, I assume that first of all, the adversary was known to her. The adversary was not a stranger.

Secondly, since the adversary was known to her, it means the enemy the widow was praying about was not a new one.

Thirdly, the adversary must have wronged her before. She must have had an unpleasant encounter with this adversary. The moment the adversary discovers your weakness, he will keep on hitting you at that particular spot.

Fourthly, when the widow said “my adversary”, it means the adversary was personal to her. It is amazing that some people fight other people’s enemies – leaving their own unchallenged. This is foolishness. This is why we need to appreciate pastors, who by virtue of their calling, have to fight on behalf of their members.

The fact that the woman cried to the judge shows that she knew she could not fight for herself; she needed a power higher than hers. This is exactly what David knew and wrote in Psalm 35. Cry to God to fight on your behalf against the enemies who want to destroy your destiny. Prayerfully identify your enemies

and ask God to deal with them on your behalf. It is very important that we identify our internal enemies. As a matter of fact, the internal enemies are more potent and dangerous than the external enemies.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, identified his internal enemy and he cried in **Romans 7:24** saying: **“who shall deliver me from this body of death?”** He located his adversary accurately. If you have not located your own internal enemy, you need to pray. Paul discovered his internal adversary and said: “when I went to do good, evil is present with me.” He knew his flesh was his adversary. Moses had discovered in Egypt that he had problems with his temper. When he saw two people fighting, one an Egyptian and the other a Jew, he decided to intervene, but because of his explosive anger, he killed the Egyptian. His original plan was not to kill but to defend his fellow brother, however he went too far.

The moment the Adversary discovers your weakness, he will keep on hitting you at that particular spot. For example, the enemy will keep on sending amorous ladies or playboys to you if he discovers your weakness to be sexual immorality. In **Numbers 11:10-15** **“Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. And Moses said unto the LORD , Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? And wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? Have I conceived all this people? Have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? For they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh that we may eat. I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness”**.

We discover that because the devil knew anger was the prime problem of Moses, he kept on irritating him using the children of Israel, until Moses called on God to kill him. All the things that Moses said in that passage were enough to end his career there and then if God had not been gracious. If you will carefully examine your life, you will notice straight away that your weakness is; this is your internal enemy. You need to locate it. In the case of James and John, their internal enemy was a fiery temper.

That is why Jesus called them “The sons of thunder” in Mark 3:17 **“And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed**

them Boanerges, which is, the sons of thunder:” They proved it in Luke 9:51-56 **“ And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village”**. The Lord on His way to Jerusalem sent some people to get Him accommodation in a village of the Samaritans. The Samaritans said, ‘what do we have to do with you? You do not associate with us, so you cannot stay in our village’.

When they brought the report back, James and John turned to the Lord and said, ‘let us roast them like Elijah did.’ The Lord replied, No, I have not come to destroy people, I have come to save them. ‘Love of women was the internal enemy of Samson. This enemy was more powerful than the whole hosts of the Philistines. What the Philistines could not do to Samson, the love of women did! My prayer for you is that the Lord will help you to locate your internal enemy and He will give you the grace to deal with it in Jesus’ Name.

The first thing that strikes you in **Psalm 91:1 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty ”** is that there is someone called “The Most High”. He is called “The Most High” because He is higher than the highest (**Ecclesiastes 5:8 “If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they”**). The Name of that person called “The Most High” is Jesus. It is written concerning Him in Philippians 2:9 that: **“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:”**

There is a story about four boys who were discussing their father. Each boasted about his own. The first said his father was the greatest because his father was the Head of State. The second boy said his father was greater because his father was the physician of the Head of State. His father could order the president to stay in bed for one week and the president would obey him. The third boy then said his father was higher than the fathers of the other two because his father was the medicine man of their fathers. He could kill the two

fathers if he wished. The fourth boy, who was the son of a messenger, said his father was the greatest of all four fathers because, not only could his father kill all their fathers, he could also raise the dead. They were amazed, but he told them he was not talking about his physical father but the One above, whose name is Jesus.

From the above bible passage, we can see factors that guarantee us victory over our enemies. One factor is that “The Most High” has a secret place where He hides his own in the time of trouble. The secret place of the Most High is not a building. It is a Name, His Name. Proverbs 18:10 says: **“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe”**.

The Name of Jesus is our secret place of safety because the Father has ordained that at the Name of Jesus knee should bow (**Philippians 2:10 “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;”**) . We also discover from the bible that there is someone who is called “The Almighty”. He is so called because He is very strong; He can even do the impossible (**Luke 1:37 “For with God nothing shall be impossible”**). The reason He can do the impossible is because power, real power, belongs to Him (**Psalms 62:11 “God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God”**). The question then is, “how do I get under the shadow of this Almighty God? It is simple; all you need to do is to make sure you are born-again. In other words, you must be born of God through the appropriation of the work of atonement by Jesus Christ when you confess and renounce your sinful ways. The Bible says that only those who are born of God and live by faith in Him are victors (**1 John 5:4-5 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”**). Victory is yours in Jesus’ Name.