

Rescue From Our Real Enemy

Psalm 18

[This is a long Psalm! So I invite you to read it in your Bible before moving on to the devotion . . .]

Who is your enemy?

Is it the guy who hit your car in the parking lot and left without leaving a note, costing you money to fix it?

Is it the bully at school who keeps hurting you?

Is it the unknown, faceless person who stole your identity through the internet?

No doubt, all these have wronged you and hurt you. But they are not the enemy. Not really. They too have been attacked and infiltrated by the *real* enemy.

This is what the apostle Paul said:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

No, your real enemy is using the things and people of this world to try to infiltrate you and your heart. He wants to fill your heart with bitterness and hate. He wants to make you want to lash out and hurt in return. He wants to make you think God doesn't care, won't help, and isn't on your side. He wants you to doubt God's love and think that you have to fend for yourself; take matters into your own hands.

Then what happens? You become the enemy of others. And the whole world winds up killing each other.

That kind of describes it, doesn't it? Look around.

But if we know the *real* enemy, the *satanic* one, then we can see things aright. Did you read the title superscription of this psalm? It is quite interesting in this regard. It said:

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the Lord, who addressed the words of this song to the Lord on the day when the Lord rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

Saul was the king who wanted to kill David. Yet did you notice? He is not included in the enemies of David! David is rescued from all his enemies AND from Saul. The real enemy was the one trying to infiltrate David's heart. The one who often infiltrates ours.

The Lord delivered David, rescued him, just as He will you and me. He rescued us from the real enemy by His Son, who defeated the enemy not with hate but with love, not with bitterness but with mercy, not with hurt but with forgiveness. The foe tried to infiltrate Jesus' heart and bring Him down, but could not. Therefore after dying for us and our sins and sinful hearts, Jesus rose in victory.

So maybe there are those around you right now who seem like your enemies, waging war against you. But they're not. They've been duped. They've been infiltrated. They need rescue too. So as David did for Saul, pray for them. Pray for the Lord not only to rescue you and protect you from the evil one, but also to rescue them from their distress.

And you know what? When you pray for someone like that, it's hard to hate them. It's hard to have bitterness toward them. You begin to be like Jesus and feel mercy toward them.

So now go back and read this Psalm again, but this time thinking of your REAL enemy and the victory that Jesus won for us over him. You might be surprised at how different this Psalm sounds now! And if so, thanks be to God for His Word working in your heart.

Or as the apostle Paul also said:

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will **guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus** (Philippians 4:7).*

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming and rescuing me from the satanic foe who seeks to infiltrate my heart and drag me away from You. Continue to guard my heart and mind through Your Word and Spirit, and help me to pray for those who hurt me, knowing that they are not my enemies, that they too may be rescued. Amen.