

## ENEMIES

As we conclude our time with David in the wilderness (Psalm 63), he surfaces one of the greatest concerns mankind has when experiencing conflict. What will be the outcome for the enemies that surround me? How should I feel? Depending on an individual's focus, this topic can be handled in many different ways. One prominent way that humanity seeks to deal with enemies is violence and vengeance. Taking matters into one's own hands seems like a legitimate endeavor and will result in feeling better. However, David addresses his current exile at the hand of his son Absalom (2 Samuel 15–20) with his focus and dependence on God in a much different way.

### **Psalm 63:8–11**

*My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.  
But those who seek to destroy my life  
shall go down into the depths of the earth;  
they shall be given over to the power of the sword;  
they shall be a portion for jackals.  
But the king shall rejoice in God;  
all who swear by him shall exult,  
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.*

In a worshipful conversation with the Lord, he surfaces the reality of his enemies. The way he does this shows that David understands that God already knows. Sometimes, when these things happen, we feel all alone. This couldn't be further from the truth for the Lord's people. The Lord knows, and as David suggests, God deals with it. Throughout history, we can see how God deals with the enemies of his people. While it may not happen in the timeline or the way we think, they are all ultimately defeated. This promise we can hold on to and should inform how we live into the reality of enemies.

### **Psalm 94:1–2**

*O Lord, God of vengeance,  
O God of vengeance, shine forth!  
Rise up, O judge of the earth;  
repay to the proud what they deserve!*

Finally, David expresses confidence that no matter what, God blesses his people. Yes, even when enemies are present, the all-knowing and all-powerful God is watching over his people. As a result, these people will praise his name.

### **Psalm 23:5**

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

As a result, we can confidently walk into this new week even though we can see that there are enemies of the cross all around. God knows, he handles it, and the blessings and promises made to his children are still solid. With this in mind, let us conduct ourselves as God's people and let the Lord handle our enemies. In addition, let us pray fervently that they would see God and allow Jesus to be their king.

### **Romans 12:17–21**

<sup>17</sup> *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.* <sup>18</sup> *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* <sup>19</sup> *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."* <sup>20</sup> *To the contrary, "if*

*your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Eyes up!

Ryan