

DON'T GIVE THE ENEMY A SEAT AT YOUR TABLE

It's Time To Win The Battle Of Your Mind . . .

LESSON 6 – IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR ENEMIES

“Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” John 14:23 (NIV)

ILLUSTRATION – Baby Zebra

Questions

Why has God set a table in the presence of your enemies? The table is not set just in God's presence—it's set in the presence of the difficulties, the trials, the challenges. So why is the table set there?

1. God has put the table close enough to the chaos so that those in the chaos can **hear** what is going on. Christianity is not exclusively suited for isolated moments between us and God.

A. It's a **relationship** in the midst of chaos so that someone who needs to know there is something called abundance can lean over and listen to what is going on between us and the King.

“Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” John 14:23 (NIV)

B. It's the **reverence** and **relationship** for God that keeps us at the table.

2. If we want to look different than the world, we need to let our **light** shine on our to-do list for the day.

“Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.” Psalm 43:3

“My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes”. Psalm 38:10

3. The table is set in the middle of our enemies so we can respond to the invitation to **linger** with the Savior.

“One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD And to seek him in his temple.” Psalm 27:4 (NIV)

Quote: “Don't just visit. Dwell in the presence of God”. –**Andrew Wommack**

A. We don't live in a “lingering” world. But lingering in the presence of the Almighty is one of the best methods of **defense** against an enemy who is trying to get at our table.

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.” Ephesians 6:11 (NIV)

There are THREE reasons why God set the table in the presence of our enemies.

1. The first reason is so that **we can know that God is enough.**

- A. None of us want trials, difficulties, or moments when we feel no one has our back. But those are the moments when we recognize that God is real and is with us.

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." **Isaiah 41:10***

Quote: *"There's a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have energy to serve Him, boldness to share Him, and contentment in Him."* – **J.I. Packer**

2. The second reason is that **God wants us to know that He loves our enemies.**

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." **Matthew 5:44 (NIV)**

- A. He wants them to have a witness. When we are looking at God, our faces reflect Him, and they begin to see God in us. We reflect God's glory.

"Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good." **Romans 12:20-21 (The Message)**

3. A third reason why God put the table in the presence of our enemies is so that we can let our cup overflow.

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." **Psalm 23:5 (NIV)**

- A. When we are focused on God, our cup overflows, and we have plenty of God's goodness to share with others. We find we can love our enemies, bless those who curse us, and speak well of those who are not speaking well of us.

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." **Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)**

- B. When we are focused on God, people will notice there is something different about us. But before long, they will begin to do what we always long for people to do—stop looking at us and start trying to figure out who we are looking at. They are going to be drawn to the King.

"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God." **Jeremiah 24:7b**