

# Ruling Among Our Enemies

This command is found in the 110th Psalm:

Rule in the midst of your enemies.

How can we individuals rule when we are surrounded by enemies? Did our God give us a command that would be impossible for us to keep? Let's look at some examples:

One time a gang of teenage boys in a threatening manner surrounded their teacher whose name was Mr. James. They thought their teacher would be frightened by them. As it happened, Mr. James was a true believer, one who had spent many hours praying and seeking to know God. God had given him wisdom, and when he looked around at the boys, he did not see a threatening gang, but rather he saw a group of young guys trying to show off how brave they were, but lacking true maturity. He simply said to them, "You fellows got a problem?" His attitude and lack of any fear caught them off guard. They didn't know how to respond, and their teacher simply walked off without looking back to see if any were following him or coming after him.

All of God's people should have this kind of courage, boldness, bravery, but most people who believe in God have never become mature believers; they are still babies spiritually.

Here is another example: One day when Mr. James was young, he attended a Bible college. At this school, some of the students went out almost every weekend doing house-to-house witnessing/ministry. On a particular Saturday, James was assigned to go with a girl student. When they approached a certain house, there were two small dogs who came after them barking loudly. The girl was frightened by the dogs, and she fell behind James. However, the dogs ran past James [one on one side and the other on the other side] and barked at the girl. She was flabbergasted that the dogs would ignore James and come after her. When this incident was over, the girl asked the James, "Why did the dogs run past you and come after me?" James answered her, "Dogs recognize fear. I wasn't afraid of them, so they ignored me." I'm sure that girl learned a very important lesson that day—one that she has never forgotten.

Now these two incidents were minor. Many years later, Mr. James had a dream in which he was shown an even higher level of fearlessness in the presence of danger: He dreamed that he was walking down a street at night when a gang of boys approached him. Two of them had guns, and one shouted, "Stick 'em up!" Mr. James responded calmly, "I don't take orders from people who point guns at me." That guy was shaken to find someone who wasn't afraid; he shouted louder, "I said, stick 'em up!" Again, Mr. James responded calmly, "I told you, I don't take orders from people who point guns at me," but this time he added, "Today you are going to see God's glory." At that point, in his dream, Mr. James saw himself start levitating, floating up about two feet above the ground, and his body was floating towards the gang of boys. When those boys saw him floating toward them without walking, they got scared and ran. Is this not "ruling among your enemies"? Being a dream, it seems that God was preparing Mr. James for a much higher level of ruling among his enemies. Who knows what level of enmity we may meet some day. Let us all pray to God for wisdom and courage to stand when we are in the presence of your enemies.

A fourth incident in the life of Mr. James: One day he was climbing a mountain when a snake rose up before him. Was it poisonous? He didn't know, but immediately that story in the Bible when God's angel told Lot not to look back, came into his mind. Mr. James simply turned around and started walking [not running from the snake] without looking back. The snake did not come after him.

Dear reader, you too can walk in this level of bravery/courage and "rule among your enemies." Keep your mind stayed on God and pray constantly to him, to get to know him

intimately. Then when times of danger and enmity arise, the blessing of God will give you wisdom how to deal with your enemies—how to rule over them.

Here are two stories in the Bible that speak of Ruling Among Our Enemies: Daniel in the lion's den, chapter 6, and Daniel's three friends in the over-heated furnace, chapter 3. Read these stories, meditate on them, and the same courage to Rule Among Your Enemies will arise in you. Did Daniel do anything difficult? No, he just continued his prayer every day when he knew it was illegal, and he showed no fear of the lions. Did Daniel's three friends do anything difficult? No, they just simply said, "No, O King, we will not bow down and worship your god," and they showed no fear of the over-heated furnace. It was as Jesus said, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Daniel's obligation was easy, and his three friends had a light burden. You can walk in the same victory!

And here is one more story: Marie Monsen, missionary from Norway to China, about 1930, was working in a part of the country where many bandits were roaming the countryside and robbing many people. There was wide-spread fear among the Chinese people. However, Marie Monsen was of strong faith and trust in her God—that he would take care of her, and she refused to allow any fear to arise in her. Numerous time she faced robbers or bandits, but because she kept her faith in God, she was always delivered. Below is only one of many stories of such a deliverance. Quoting Marie Directly:

As usual, it came suddenly. Some notorious bandits were on their way towards the city, and the people were fleeing in hot haste. Even people from the suburb where I was leading a study course for Bible-women were fleeing. The confusion was indescribable. Many even ran away from their old folks, leaving them to "keep the gate". The Bible-women had gathered from two provinces, and only a few of them knew the district. They were told immediately that they were free to leave.

I myself felt perfectly assured that I was to stay where I was, none of them were to remain on account of me. We had a time of prayer together, and at the close, those who wished to flee were advised to go immediately, but they all chose to stay where they were. Next we decided to spend some time praying alone, and without speaking to others, to ask God to give each of us a word from the Bible to rest on.

When we met again later, they were asked one by one what word had been given. After the first two had answered, they all brightened up noticeably. I began to guess what was coming: they had all been given the same word. I might have doubted that it was really so, except for the overwhelming realization that that was the same word that I had been given; the very same promise: "I will not destroy the city for the sake of ten righteous people". (Genesis 18:32)

"And we are more than ten here," the women said joyfully.

The text was not one we had read together in our Bible course either. We had a good time of praise together. All of my anxiety for the women I was responsible for, just blew away—so to speak.

We lay down in our clothes that night. At first there was some shooting and some heavy bombing; then everything became quiet. Early in the morning we were told that the bandits had left everything and fled from the city. It was said that they heard a large army was coming to relieve the city, and was not far away. We were a very happy group of women that day. We had personally experienced the presence of God, for one of his own promises had been literally fulfilled before our eyes. No relieving army ever arrived.

Written by Mr. James