

What Our Enemies Know **05-14-17 AM**

In Matthew 27:62-66, we read how the men who killed Jesus went to Pilate to ask for a guard on Jesus' tomb. Their reason was that they remembered how Jesus had promised to rise three days after His death. We know that Jesus promised to do this on many occasions, beginning with Matthew 16:21. Yet in places such as Luke 24:21-23, we see that Jesus' own disciples were confused or disbelieving (Matthew 28:17). It is a remarkable thing that Jesus enemies remembered the promises of Jesus when His own disciples did not. Is there a lesson for us?

According to the Scriptures, being a Christian means we have enemies. We have an adversary in the devil (1 Peter 5:8), who seek opportunity to cause us to fall. We also have an enmity with the world. Jesus said that the world hates us because we are of Christ (John 15:19). Is it possible that these enemies know things that we ourselves forget?

What Our Adversary Knows: First of all, we need to consider that our adversary knows the truth about Jesus Christ. He knows that Jesus is Lord (Mark 1:24). Do we forget that Jesus is Lord, having overcome the world? He knows that faith without works is dead (James 2:19-20). Do we forget this on occasion by acting as though we have only to believe in God to be saved? Our adversary knows that Jesus is coming in judgment (Matthew 8:29). Do we forget this by the way we live our lives?

Secondly, our adversary knows how to cause us to stumble. He knows that that we can be tempted (1 Corinthians 7:5). Too often we forget and think ourselves beyond temptation. He knows that if we just try it once he has us. He knows that deception by good intentions works (Matthew 16:22). Sometimes we sin with good intentions, and fail to appreciate what we have done. He knows that that we can't walk two ways (1 John 3:7). If he can get us to walk in darkness, he owns us, although sometimes it seems we think we can walk in both and be okay.

What The World Knows: Believe it or not, the world knows what a Christian should look like. Our reputation among outsiders needs to be one of good repute (1 Timothy 3:7). Particularly, our speech reflects our walk with Christ to the world (Colossians 4:5-6). The world also knows what can turn us away from God. In Revelation 2:14, we are told that Balaam knew how to cause Israel to be cursed, by offering them their fleshly desires. The world knows how to draw us away from God. Finally, the world understands that the nature of the Word of God is that it must be entirely true (2 Timothy 3:16-17). While it might seem at first that this is not something the world understands, consider that many skeptics or critics of Christianity work hard to find trivial "faults" within Scriptures, understanding that one fault breaks the concept of inspiration. Yet we often treat Scriptures as something that we need not take as an all or nothing idea.

It is a good thing for us to remember that the world is always watching us. We need to remember that it knows things we sometimes forget. Hypocrisy is a dangerous walk. Secondly, our adversary is always watching us. He too knows things we forget. His knowledge of God needs to be something we also have – knowing Jesus is Lord and that He is coming in judgment.