

## **How to Overcome the Enemy** **2 Samuel 17**

### **Introduction:**

1. If you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you have an enemy.
2. I don't know who you view as your enemy today – your boss at work, your neighbor, your former friend, your spouse, your mother-in-law – but I can assure you that they are **not** your enemies.
3. The Bible tells us in black and white that your enemy is not somebody with flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). Who is your enemy, Christian? Ephesians 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8
4. Our enemy is the devil – pure and simple. He is the mastermind behind the evil world system that is in place on planet earth today. His desire is to destroy the believer's testimony, the believer's faith, the believer's family and marriage, etc.
5. How do we overcome Satan and win the victory? How do we win the victory in our personal lives, in our marriages, in our homes, etc.?
6. This morning we will explore this text about King David, and learn how to overcome our enemy, the devil.

### **Recognize Satan's attack plan.**

1. When you are trying to defeat an enemy, it is always helpful to know his strategy and game plan.
2. Absalom wanted to destroy his father, David, so the kingdom would indisputably be his. So, he called on a counselor by the name of Ahithophel. This man had been David's personal counselor, friend, and companion, but he had turned on David.
3. This man was filled with the spirit of Satan, and he came up with a brilliant plan to defeat David. What a picture of Satan (*"pursue"* – to run after with hostile intent). vs. 1
4. What was his plan? His plan to defeat David mirrors Satan's plan to defeat us. vs. 2

### **Attack when they're weary!** *"...while he is weary and weak handed..."*

- This is what Satan does to us. When we are tired or weak in mind or body, this is when Satan attempts to get an advantage on us. Many times this can happen after you have been serving the Lord fervently and you are spiritually exhausted.
- **Illustration:** Elijah (1 Kings 19) right after a great victory – he is drained, and here comes Jezebel! Elijah said, "It's no use. I quit." He just needed some food and rest.

**Intimidate through fear!** “...and will make him afraid...”

- Fear is one of Satan’s greatest tools (Abraham’s lie, Saul’s disobedience, Peter’s cursing and denial). Yet, think about David and Goliath. How could David defeat Goliath? His trust in the Lord was greater than his fear of Goliath. 2 Timothy 1:7
- Satan loves to use fear to paralyze us.

**Divide and conquer.** “...and all the people that are with him shall flee...”

- Another part of Satan’s plan is to make you feel that you are all alone. He loves to alienate people from their churches and cause friction between fellow believers.
- It is difficult enough to overcome Satan’s attacks in our daily lives, but when you feel like you are also fighting those who should be soldiers with you, it can be disabling.

5. This is Satan’s plan, and notice how it culminates: “...and I will smite the king...” This is the knockout blow when Satan desires to knock you out of the race and out of the fight.

**Remind yourself that God is on your side.**

1. Think about it. If God is on your side, it doesn’t matter how many others are against you. God is always a majority! Satan had a brilliant plan to defeat David, but there was an overriding factor – God was on David’s side!
2. After hearing Ahithophel’s plan, Absalom decided to listen to Hushai and see if he had a plan. Hushai was David’s friend, and was acting as an undercover spy. vs. 5
3. Hushai deliberately laid out a plan that he knew would help David, and buy David some needed time (vs. 6-13). So, Absalom had Hushai’s and Ahithophel’s counsel.
4. What would Absalom do? Notice verse 14. “*For the Lord had appointed... to the intent that the Lord...*” Satan meant to destroy David and had a well-devised plan, but God confounded Satan’s plan.
5. God was working for David, and while David didn’t realize the specifics of what God was doing, he did know that God was for him. Psalm 3:1-3, 8
6. Do you know that Paul told the church in Romans 8:31, “*If God be for us, who can be against us?*” Paul went on to say... Romans 8:33-34
7. Christian, it may seem at times that God has forgotten you, but I can assure you that God is on your side. You have a mediator in heaven named Jesus Christ, and He is ever making intercession on your behalf. That is a guarantee from God!
8. Satan may accuse you and fight you, but he can never strip you of the spiritual blessings you possess in Christ and the spiritual position that you have before God. Romans 8:38-39
9. Even if Satan wins a battle here and there, remember that you are going to win the war!

### **Rely on God's provision.**

1. As you read through the ensuing events in this chapter, you can clearly see God's amazing protection and provision. Hushai got David word through carriers, and David escaped over the Jordan River (vs. 22). But, things were not good.
2. The people were hungry, weary, and thirsty (end of vs. 29). Then, while David was in the wilderness, three men showed up (totally unexpectedly) with much-needed food and supplies for David and his men. vs. 27-29
3. God knew their need and He met it. He provided refreshment and nourishment in the wilderness. God provided a table in the wilderness! Psalm 23:5
4. God does this for us today. When we are walking through the wilderness of this world, the Holy Spirit refreshes our spirit, and His Word nourishes us through every circumstance. Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 12:9
5. Pray, trust Him, refuse to fear. Psalm 3:4-6
6. Do you know the greatest provision that God ever made for you? It was His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Christ, God has provided a way for you to have complete and total forgiveness of your sins, and an eternal home in heaven. Turn to Christ today!