

Acts 22:30-23:35
October 21, 2018
Sermon Notes

Problem - "a matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome."

Dealing with problems:

1. Love problem people, don't seek revenge

Matthew 5:38-42 ESV

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

What Jesus asks of His followers is not passivity, but surrender of the right to personal revenge.

Romans 12:20-21 ESV

20 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." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

When dealing with problem people, remember:

- a. vengeance comes from God
- b. protection comes from God
- c. reward comes from God

Luke 6:27-28 ESV

27 "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Exodus 23:22 ESV

22 "But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

Romans 2:7 ESV

7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

Dealing with problems:

2. Engage problem situations, don't seek escape

Remember about this problem situation:

- a. it's not permanent
- b. it can make you stronger

Hebrews 1:10-12 ESV

10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, the heavens are the work of your hands; 11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

James 1:12 ESV

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Romans 8:18 ESV

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Dealing with problems:

3. Remember if you're still in the middle of the problem, God is not done with you

Daniel 3:17-18 ESV

17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Daniel 3:25 ESV

25 He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

God's servants are immortal until their work is done. No servant of God dies a premature death.

Psalms 139:16 ESV

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.