

Change Points!

Week Eight – Enemies or the Enemy?

Memory Verse: Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. (Jesus – Mt. 16:24, The Message Translation)

Video introduction by Pastor Steve

Recap of week Change Points! #8 – Enemies or the Enemy?

We have enemies.

We have one enemy! (Gen. 3 14-15; Eph. 6:11-12)

Democracy > Shout-ocracy > Mob-ocracy > Power-ocracy
Prayer-ocracy
(Mt. 6:9-13; Phil. 4:6-7)

It's all about Redemptive Thinking. (John 3:17)

Jesus treated his enemies differently than the enemy. (Mt. 4:1-11; Rev. 20:10; Lk. 23:34)

We have been deceived if we think our "enemies" are the real problem. (James 4:7)

Loving and praying for your "enemies" does not mean trusting your "enemies".

Next Step:

- I intend to follow Jesus and let him lead. I am not in the driver's seat; Jesus is. (Mt. 16:24)

Questions to explore:

1. Talk about what causes people to try to get what they want through shouting, organizing a violent mob, or leveraging their power?
2. What makes prayer an entirely different approach to resisting our true enemy, the devil? Does pray feel like a strong or a weak strategy to you? Why?
3. God thinks redemptively, meaning God's goal is restoration and healing. So Jesus came because God saw people not as his "enemies", but as potential children in his family as they came to trust in Jesus Christ. How has God's redemptive action affected your life? How has God's redemptive action changed the lives of people you know?

Challenge question:

- Think about the most difficult situation in your life recently or now. How does having one enemy, the devil, change how you understand and react to the situation?
- For those who have suffered significant harm from another person, what does it look like for you to pray for them, while at the same time realizing that you cannot yet trust them?