

Text: Ezra 4:1-24
Topics: Enemies, Faith, Separation
Series: Courage to Trust God's Promises

Monroe Bible Church
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Will I Be Faithful?

I. The Character of the Opposition (1-7)

It was... *deceitful, and persistent!*

God's people need discernment and courage in the world.

II. The Tactics of the Opposition (8-16)

They... *assembled a coalition,
attached a negative label, and asserted falsely.*

God's people need endurance for the long haul.

III. The Success of the Opposition (17-24)

The authorities... *acted on the opponents claim.*

God's people need faith in discouragement.

Faith in God's Promises doesn't guarantee freedom from God's enemies.

My faith will rest on Christ, not circumstance!

Application Questions - *These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.*

1. What circumstance(s) most challenge you to be faithful to what God desires you to do? Give an example of a success or failure.

2. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. What are believers instructed not to do in this passage? Why? What motivation is given?

Give a personal example, good or bad, of this principle in your life.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. How is this different from the instruction given in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18?

How could this principle be misunderstood and wrongly applied? (Toward the unbeliever, and toward the fellow believer)

4. What "blessed" and "woe" circumstances did Jesus give in Luke 6:22-23, 26? What reason does Jesus give for being treated this way?

Do you tend to work for, or restrain from, either of these conditions? Give an example(s).

5. In 1 Peter 3:13-18 a strong exhortation is given for doing what is good in God's eyes, even in the face of suffering for it. There are a number of ways of preparing for, and looking at such circumstances, seen in this passage. What are they?

Which would be most helpful to prepare you to do good in God's eyes, in challenging circumstances? How can you "arm" yourself beforehand?

6. What is the main application of this study, and/or the sermon and its passages, for you?

