



## Enemy - Week 2

### Message Discussion Questions

#### **Introduction:**

This week Chance is continuing our series titled 'Enemy'. We all love action movies because we feel like we can relate to the hero. But in order for there to be a hero, there has to be an enemy. None of us want to be the enemy, but we all want to be the hero.

In this series we're looking at the enemies that we face, and how God, in His grace, provided for us to be able to deal with those enemies by trusting in His Son, Jesus.

#### **Questions:**

1. Think of "enemies" that you have faced or might be currently facing in your life. Would you agree that one thing that's obvious is that we can quickly and easily identify the "enemies" we face in this life? Why or why not? Would you agree that often it's the "outward" circumstances that we see as the "enemy"...and they rise up? Why or why not, and if so, how so?
2. Chance challenged us to take time to evaluate, for example: Do you seem to be running into enemies consistently? What's your character like, how about demeanor, attitude, and are they out to get you? Moreover, what is it about you that your enemy(ies) seem to attack?
3. The reason this is so important to purposefully evaluate and stay in that tension for a bit is because it's even more important we come to the place wherein we learn...we need to spend less time focusing on the offense of our enemies, and focus on what we are to do. Have you ever thought about this before? Make sense? Why or why not? (Hint: As context, READ Romans 12:1-2; giving our

bodies to the Lord as act of worship/living sacrifice; the reviewing of our minds, being humble, and using our God-given gifts is what's next!)

4. READ Romans 12:9-11. In our culture today, "love" can be vague. Based on what we've read in these verses, what's the Apostle Paul teaching us "sincere love" looks like? How is the word "Hate" used? And, who does Paul say we're to love, and why? (Hint: Because we remember Jesus Christ first loved us and every one of us was in sin/rebellion towards God, our Creator)
5. READ Romans 12:12-13. How do these verses shape how we are to interact with each other, and also our "enemies"? How about how we are to face trouble, what we're to do, and for those in trouble? As you reflect on your own life, how have you walked through your own challenges with people? Is what we're learning here new information, a new perspective?
6. How are we to treat those who persecute us? How are we to live with non-Christians even when it can be incredibly challenging? (Hint: By squashing their hatred in LOVE). READ Romans 12:14-16. Again, as you reflect on your own life, how do these verses resonate with you?
7. When someone does something wrong, what tends to be our first reaction in order to justify the iniquity? How's that worked or working for you? Is this God's approach? READ Romans 12:17-19. What's God say about revenge? How can you see this being helpful for a situation you are currently facing, or perhaps even how God's approach could have been fleshed out/lived out in your life in a previous situation? And...really tough question: If you have ever been the enemy, have you seen the person live out/apply God's approach towards you? What was the impact for you?
8. READ Romans 12:20. Chance mentioned when he first reads this verse he feels like he's the victor in the situation, that he's the hero, when in fact he's not...and the same can apply with us? Can you relate to what he's saying as you think of situations specific to your life...perhaps that you're even in the midst of currently? As we learn in these verses, what truly is the focus of what's being taught and ultimately as we live this out in Christ's strength, where does it lead others to?
9. How then with this wonderful Truth from God do we apply this in our lives when we face an enemy? (Hint: Pause. Enemies can take us out emotionally, so pause as to not react, but to respond; Pray. For them and yourself that God would be present in the moment and in the future; Pursue. With Grace, Love, and Truth. Keep your morals based on God's ethics of what's true and right, but seek to reconcile)

**Key Takeaway:** *You were once the enemy of God, but God... provided a way for you to have a right standing with Him and to be called a friend of God. Can you spend time again this week thanking God for stepping in on your behalf? How is God calling you to respond when you face an enemy?*

### **Summary:**

- It's important to evaluate why we might be running into enemies
- We need to spend less time focusing on the offense from our enemies and focus on what we are to do
- When we face trouble we're to be patient by praying, and help other Christians in need
- When we've been wronged we're to take what's been given, focus on the Lord, and to try to live at

peace with everyone; the battle is the Lord's.

- We're to squash hatred with love
- When we face an enemy Pause. Pray. Pursue