

enemies

Giving It Up

*A Lenten Sermon Series at Verona UMC -
What are you giving up for Lent?*



FEBRUARY 26

CONTROL

MARCH 4

EXPECTATIONS

MARCH 11

SUPERIORITY

MARCH 18

ENEMIES

MARCH 25

OUR LIVES

APRIL 1

POPULARITY

APRIL 8

DEATH





The Irony of the name “Jerusalem”

Jeru means foundation. Salem means peace.

Yet Jerusalem had over and over reject God’s prophets of peace, including Jesus.



When Jesus weeps for Lazarus in John 11:35, the word “wept” means “shed tears.” Here in Luke 19 the word for wept means “to violently, uncontrollably moan and sob.”



**We often ignore
God's Spirit of
peace and
needlessly
make and retain
enemies**



An enemy is anyone who is the target of our enmity, i.e. someone who we resent, seek to injure (either emotionally or physically), and/or actively oppose with rancor



Our stubborn intractability may be the outgrowth of a deeply felt need, born of resentment, jealousy, or a vengeful spirit... the fruit of a fallen nature



**What does
Jesus mean by
“the things that
make for
peace”?**



Peace in the context of the Jewish culture meant more than the absence of conflict. It meant:



**For the follower
of Jesus, the
Beatitudes of
Matthew 5
encapsulate the
meaning of
perfect peace**



Matt. 5:1-10: Shalom comes from:

- **A humble spirit**
- **A heart that hurts for a lost world**
- **A calm and obedient spirit**
(cont'd)



Matt. 5:1-10:

- **A deep desire for righteousness**
- **A merciful heart**
- **A purity of heart, holiness**
- **Peacemaking**
- **Courage**



**To fully give up
our enemies is
to embrace this
concept of
peace, to
become actively
engaged in
peace-making
that leads to
shalom**



**Where does true
peace begin?**



**NO JESUS,
NO PEACE.**

**KNOW JESUS,
KNOW PEACE.**



Eph. 1:14-18
For he himself is our
peace, who has...
destroyed the
barrier, the dividing
wall of hostility,... He
came and preached
peace to you who
were far away and
peace to those who
were near.



Romans 12:18

**If it is possible,
as far as it
depends on you,
live at peace with
everyone.**



Romans 14:9

**Let us therefore
make every effort
to do what leads
to peace and
to mutual
edification.**



Psalm 34:14

**Turn from evil
and do good;
seek peace and
pursue it.**



Hebrews 12:14

**Make every effort
to live in peace
with all men and
to be holy;
without holiness
no one will see
the Lord.**



**Having enemies
may be the
natural result of
our faith in
Jesus Christ**



**All four gospel
accounts
mention that the
world will hate
us because of
Jesus:**

Matt. 10:22;

Luke 21:17;

Mark 13:13;

John 15:18



***Finally, we need
to give up our
enmity with God***



ENEMIES

... Give It Up!