

THE WORLD IS NOT GOD'S FRIEND

Family Devotion – Lesson 31

MEMORY VERSE—PSALM 140:1

“Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man”

- This is a prayer for protection. It was a request to be delivered from the evil person and preserved from the violent man. Unfortunately, these kinds of prayers are sometimes needed.
- Why are there evil and violent people in the world? Genesis chapter 4:1-8 gives us some reasons:
 - 1) The inherited sin nature of man (vs. 1) — We should crucify our flesh.
 - 2) Envy, anger, and depression (vs. 4-5) — We should put off the old man and put on the new.
 - 3) A non-repentant life of rebellion (vs. 7) — We should repent and obey God.
 - 4) Influence from another (1 Jn. 3:12) — We should resist the devil and draw nigh to God.
- How you should handle an evil and violent person:
 - 1) Pray for God to deliver and preserve you.
 - 2) Pray for that specific person to get saved.
 - 3) Use every opportunity (even persecution) to glorify God (Rom. 8:28).
 - 4) Love that person.
 - 5) Do good to that person.
 - 6) Don't take it personally.
- *“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust”* (Mt. 5:43-45).

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- How do you think God feels about a world that is full of evil and violence (Gen. 6:5-6)?
- How can remembering why someone is evil and violent help you in dealing with them?

PRAYER TIME

- Pray for God to protect you from evil and violent people.
- Ask God to help you to be a light of love to those who are not.

CHALLENGE

- Be a blessing to the next person who does something bad to you.