

# *Enemies In Our Midst !*

*“And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.” Matthew 10:21*

The Bible says in Galatians 1:10 – *“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”* Just recently, my aunt died in Pennsylvania. Her and my entire family are Roman Catholic, which I am vehemently opposed to, after coming to the knowledge of the truth of the saving grace of Jesus Christ through what He did for all of us on the Cross (John 3:16). When I refused to attend the mass that was said for her at her funeral, the hatred for me that had been simmering just under the surface by some of my family members, came right out into the open. And, when I spoke up to my cousin about what she was going to do with the money I had sent to her, the hatred came out even more. I thought she was going to use the money to help pay for the funeral arrangements, but instead, she planned to give all the donations to the Catholic church, to have masses said for the dead. Masses for the dead? – what a joke! The Bible says, *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”* (2Corinthians 5:8) - if you are saved! If you are not saved, then you have died in your sins and you go straight to hell, not purgatory, **which does not even exist!** Not my words, the Bible’s.

I was reading in the book of the Psalms recently and I came across this verse, *“Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother’s son”* (Psalm 50:20). This fits my brother to a **T!** He talks about and slanders me to anyone who will listen. Sometimes he is civil to me, but I don’t lower my guard when I’m around him, because I remember reading about the Lord’s warning to Jeremiah, *“For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee”* (Jeremiah 12:6).

We are warned by the Lord repeatedly in the Bible, both in the Old Testament and in the New, about our earthly family members, and what to expect from them once we get saved. In Jeremiah 9:4 the Lord warned Jeremiah to *“take heed every one his neighbor, trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant (try to replace through trickery) and every neighbor will walk with slanders.”*

And again in Micah chapter 7, verses 5 and 6, *“Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom (wife). For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man’s enemies are the men of own house.”*

Jesus hit the nail right on the head when He said in Matthew 10:34-36, *“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.”*

In Numbers 12:1-2 Moses had to deal with this also: *“And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.”* Even the Lord’s brothers told Him in John 7:3-5 *“Depart hence and go into Judea that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him.”*

Recently, a sister in the Lord who has been very encouraging to me for the stand that I took, wrote and told me that she and her disabled brother were both written out of their mother’s will because they would not compromise either, concerning the Catholic church. Her mother told her that, *“A Christian would not act like that.”* How would she, or anyone else who is not a Bible believing Christian, know what a Christian should or shouldn’t do? They don’t read God’s word for guidance! If she did, she would see where the Bible says, *“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”* (Matthew 10:37).

I wrote back and sent her this scripture from the book of Psalms, *“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.”* (Psalm 27:10). We thank the Lord that we still have some brothers and sisters out there who are not willing to compromise their beliefs and have taken a stand on behalf of the Lord and His Holy Word.

Just recently, a brother and sister in the Lord who live in Virginia, had the police called on them by their own granddaughter because she would not babysit her great grandson so that her granddaughter and her brother could go

to the movies. It didn't matter to her that her grandmother is battling cancer and her grandfather has heart problems. Again, you're a Christian so you have to do these things, whether you are feeling good or not.

Also, back in December, another sister in the Lord who lives in Rochester, was physically attacked from behind by her daughter for no apparent reason at all, leaving scratches on her body. This kind of behavior has been going on since the beginning of time when Cain killed Abel, his brother (Genesis 4:8). And as we get closer and closer to the Lord's return, we can expect the hatred to not only continue, but get worse and worse (Mark 13:13).

The Lord never said the Christian road was going to be easy. Jesus said, *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also"* (John 15:18-20). That is why Jesus said to count the cost before starting down this road (Luke 14:26-30, 33). We are reminded in the Bible that, *"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness"* (1 John 5:19). Also to, *"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you"* (1 John 3:13). Better to take a stand now and be willing to be hated so we can see some of our loved ones get saved in the future, instead of just keeping quiet and not warning them about the road to perdition that they are already on, *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."* (Matthew 7:13-14). *"Open rebuke is better than secret love,"* the Bible says (Proverbs 27:5). Also, *"He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue"* (Proverbs 28:23). That's love – God's love, and love tells the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth – Hallelujah!

As we said before, *"If we seek to please men, we cannot be the servant of Christ."* Even when the Lord was here, many of the chief rulers believed on Him, but, because of the Pharisees, they did not confess Him before men because they were afraid that they would be put out of the synagogue. Why? *"For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God"* (John 12:42-43).

The Bible says, *"We are set for the defense of the gospel"* (Philippians 1:17). That means we are to take a stand against anything or anyone that is contrary to the Holy Word of God and to the sound doctrine that it stands for. And, Roman Catholicism is as unsound concerning the real Gospel as you're going to get! That is why the Lord devotes two whole chapters (Revelation 17 & 18) to the destruction of the Catholic Church, or the Whore of Babylon (Mystery Babylon) that it evolves into during the Great tribulation, which is the last seven years before the Lord's return to the earth.

We are to, *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them,"* the Bible says (Ephesians 5:11). That is why I have been warning my family, and anyone else who will listen, for the last 40 years to, *"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins..."* (Revelation 18:4). And as far as my family hating me because I took a stand, Isaiah 66:5 says, *"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear (Rapture) to your joy, and they shall be ashamed."*

Amen

(All scripture references taken from the King James Bible)

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