



# The Cruelty of the Enemy

*“Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.” Psalm 27:12 (KJV)*

## Number 35 in the series “God’s Faithfulness in My Daily Battles”

From what we read in scripture, David had enemies all his life. As a child, his brothers mocked and ridiculed him. For years King Saul tried to kill him. He knew the betrayal of friends and the cruelty of enemies. So many of the psalms are written by David as he cried out to God to deliver him from his enemies.

Psalm 25:19-21 (KJV) reads, *“Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.”* In the midst of many cruel enemies trying to destroy him, David proclaims his trust in the Lord! He cries out to the Lord to help him live a life of integrity and uprightness.

Everyone who surrenders his life to Jesus as his Savior is surrounded by many cruel enemies. Jesus tells us in Matthew 10:21-22 (KJV): *“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. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”* In Matthew 5:10-12 (KJV) Jesus says, *“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”*

Beloved, I know in my heart that many of you today are being mocked, rejected, and persecuted for your faith. It may be coming from family or those you thought were your friends. It may be co-workers or fellow students. It may be professing Christians, even those in your own church.

I know your pain. My husband and I have gone through all of the above several times. We are in the midst of some of it right now; and yes, it hurts, but Jesus Christ is faithful! The Lord has not deceived us. All through the Bible and throughout history, those who lived for the Lord were persecuted.

My way to handle it is to remember the persecution that Christ endured for me. To draw closer to Jesus by HIS AMAZING GRACE to forgive as He forgives me.

Like David, I want to walk in integrity and live in a way that glorifies Jesus in the midst of the battle. The Holy Spirit gives me the power daily to obey the Bible and not to battle in the flesh. In the midst of the trials, I see Him produce the fruit of the Spirit in me. The Holy Spirit heals, comforts, and strengthens me. Beloved, whatever pain you are going through right now—trust and wait on the Lord. He will not fail you. The enemy is vicious and cruel, but God is full of mercy toward us.

*With a goal to glorify Jesus Christ*  
**Janice McBride**

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