



Sermon Discussion Guide for I AM Worship Church

# Enemies At The Table – Pt. 1

Pastor Mark Ogletree • Sunday, January 14, 2024



We hope this material will continue to minister as the sermon was preached during our weekly worship service. When we receive God's Word at church, we need not only to hear the message, but we ought to walk it out in our daily lives. We should "be doers of the word, not only hearers." (James 1:22)

**Step 1:** GET TOGETHER with your family or group.

**Step 2:** REVIEW the key points and scriptures from the message.

**Step 3:** SHARE with your group what God is saying to you through the message.

**Step 4:** PRAY together, for each other and over each other to continue to walk this word out.

## The Big Idea (Discussion Starter)

Encountering enemies is necessary in our lives to fulfill the plan God has for us. While these enemies may take various forms, they are not to be feared but understood as opportunities for growth and indicators of our advancement as we walk through open doors. Always remember that challenges and adversaries **only arise when we are advancing**, and they ultimately pave the way for us to transition to higher levels of purpose and destiny!

## Don't Miss This Point! Enemies Are Just Part Of Life

Let's focus on the necessity of enemies in our lives. Drawing from the biblical song of David in **Psalm 23**, it is evident that enemies are an integral part of our journey. David knows a thing or two about enemies, and he is singing joyfully about God's faithfulness in the presence of his enemies. We must remember to see enemies not as mere hindrances, but as opportunities for growth and advancement. Just as champions need formidable opponents to become champions, we too must face enemies to fulfill our purpose and accomplish great things, particularly when it comes to growing in Christ.

Enemies serve as confirmation that breakthroughs and new seasons are on the horizon, and by embracing this perspective, we can learn to love our enemies and recognize their role in our spiritual development.

## Another Great Point! God Uses People In Our Lives

God uses people to bless us. Pastor Mark says "they are kingdom-aligned relationships," who are people that are being used by God to influence your life in the way He desires. But here is the thing, people are also Satan's most effective strategy to hinder our progress.

By recognizing that enemies are not the people themselves but instruments of spiritual opposition, we can respond to them with understanding and in the proper way (use the Word). While Satan influences people to distract, deceive, detract, discourage, and divide us, it is essential to understand that the individuals themselves are not the enemy; rather, they are conduits for spiritual influence.

## One Last Point! Heaven Has Windows, Hell Has Gates, Life Has Doors

In **1 Corinthians 16:9**, Paul is telling the church, there is a huge opportunity that God has prepared for me, and (*not but*) there are many adversaries. Let's consider our lives and the significance of doors, time, and enemies in the process of our transitioning from one season of life to another.



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The *doors* represent opportunities for new seasons.

The *time* refers to the transitional period that should be short and intense. Why? Because it's the time you are fighting enemies.

The *enemies* stand as adversaries at the threshold of these doors, attempting to thwart our progress. Enemies are most often the obstacles that must be overcome as we transition to higher levels of purpose and destiny, and by acknowledging the presence of these enemies and facing them head-on, we can move through the doors and embrace the new seasons that God has planned for us.

**Let's Be Doers! Embracing Enemies as Catalysts for Growth**

Let's commit to the recognition that encountering enemies is an inherent part of our journey toward growth and success. Instead of fearing or avoiding them, we are encouraged to embrace them as opportunities for spiritual development. See the challenges and adversaries as indicators of transitions to new seasons and greater purpose. Whether in your career, personal relationships, marriage, or other aspects of life, we are reminded that enemies only arise when we are advancing. Satan doesn't want you to breakthrough and become a better you.

In **Matthew 5:10-12**, Jesus preached that we are blessed and that we should rejoice in the face of opposition, for what was meant to hinder us will ultimately make us stronger. Be inspired to open the doors that stand between us and our destiny and to face our enemies with courage and faith, knowing that they are catalysts for the fulfillment of God's plan in our lives.