

Embrace  
Holy  
Living

# RE- FLECTING GOD

**07/02/12 - Eliminating Our Enemies**

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1 Samuel 11:1-15

When Israel crowned Saul as their first king, some questioned his leadership ability and refused to come to his inauguration. But within the first days of his administration, Saul led the army to a great victory. His advisors saw it as a perfect opportunity to teach his political opponents a lesson. "[P]ut them to death," they insisted (v. 12*b*). "No one will dare question our king again!" But with wise restraint, Saul said, "No one shall be put to death today, for this day the Lord has rescued Israel" (v. 13*b*).

Let's face it: even though we are Christians, we encounter enemies. We find them in society, the workplace, even in our homes and churches. How should we deal with adversaries? "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink" (Rom. 12:20*a*). Settling the score only drives the hatred deeper. Kindness and forgiveness gives God the opportunity to change an opponent's heart.