

“MONSTERS INSIDE OF ME”

JEALOUSY

OPEN:

- ❖ Shakespeare called jealousy “the green-eyed monster.”
 - John Dryden (English poet in the 1600’s) called envy “the jaundice of the soul.”
 - Jealousy and envy are cousins...where you find one you often find the other.
 - Jealousy – the fear that you might lose something valuable to you. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*
 - Envy – the anger you feel because someone got something you wanted or felt you deserved. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*
 - Jealousy is usually first with envy close behind.
- ❖ Jealousy is a by-product of our sinful nature.
 - **Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT) - ¹⁹** When you follow the desires of your sinful (sin filled) nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.
 - ✓ Such sins characterize the life of the unredeemed.
 - ✓ They could be compartmentalized (grouped) into three areas: sex, religion, and human relationships.
 - ✓ The person who “practices” (as a way of life) these sins will not inherit God’s Kingdom...their life suggests that “Heaven’s Helper” does not reside in them...having said that...when we fail to live a life under the control of the Holy Spirit...we will struggle with some of these sins.

- **1 Corinthians 3:3 (NLT)** (Paul writes to carnal believers in Corinth) **For you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't this prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?** (as compared to living like people of God).
- Don't wink (overlook) the seed (weed) of jealousy:
 - ✓ **James 3:13-16 (NLT)** - ¹³If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you are bitterly jealous (undrinkable water...harsh resentment toward another), and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. ¹⁵For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. ¹⁶For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

❖ **Illustration:** The story is told of two shop keepers who were bitter rivals. Their stores were across the street from one another and they spent their days sitting in the doorway keeping track of who had the most customers. If one got a customer he would smile in triumph at the other.

One night an angel appeared to one of the shopkeepers and said, "God sent me to teach you a lesson. He will give you anything you ask for but whatever you get your competitor across the street will get twice as much. Would you like wealth, just remember he gets twice as much? What about a long and happy life? Would you like your children to be famous...whatever you desire, but he gets twice as much.

The man frowned and thought about it and said: "all right...my request is, "make me blind in one eye."

- Jealousy can cause you to be irrational...it's like being infected with a "rage virus."
- No wonder Solomon said: **Proverbs 14:30 (NLT)** – **A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.** (some translations read: it rots the bones).

- ❖ Before we look at an O.T. example of “jealousy gone wild” and a N.T. example of how to squelch jealousy, allow me to give you a little quiz:
 - Have you ever been unhappy over the fact that someone else succeeded?
 - Have you ever been glad when someone else suffered?
 - Do you make excuses why someone else is better than you?
 - Do you ever temper your compliments with the word “but”?
 - Do you ever complain that others do not appreciate you like they should?
 - Do you ever walk the other way to keep from congratulating someone on some good deed or victory they recently enjoyed?
 - Do you ever question the motive of why others show kindness to you?
 - Do you ever secretly gloat when someone gets caught because “they had it coming to them?”
 - Do you find it difficult to celebrate the success of another person who is in the same “field” as you?
 - Are you better at criticism than you are at praise?
 - Truth is, most of us struggle with jealousy from time to time.
- ❖ Erma Bombeck captured the heart of jealousy in this humorous prayer: “Lord, if you can’t make me thin, at least make my friends look fat.”
- ❖ Have you noticed that we struggle more with jealousy and envy toward those we perceive to be like us or close to us?
 - Doctors aren’t jealous of truck drivers...soldiers aren’t jealous of cabinet-makers, executives don’t envy veterinarians.
 - We don’t envy those we feel are below us or way above us...we tend to compare ourselves with people like us (in our class, our field of work, our neighbors and friends).

- Sometimes we are so busy keeping score we don't have time to develop meaningful relationships.

1) O.T. EXAMPLE: JEALOUSY GONE WILD. (1 SAMUEL 18:5-16) (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- You recall the story...shepherd becomes giant slayer.

a) Set the stage:

- ✓ Saul was Israel's first king and he was head and shoulders above the rest...this "stand out, hid out" when it was time to become king.
 - Saul came from good "pedigree: (1 Samuel 9:1) his father "Kish" was a wealthy influential man from the tribe of Benjamin.
 - (1 Samuel 9:2) Saul was the most handsome man in Israel...
 - Things moved rather quickly...from the "farm house" to the "state house"...Samuel anointed Saul as king.
 - When the big moment came for Saul to be introduced (1 Samuel 10:20-23) he is hiding among the baggage.
 - Most (not all) liked the choice... "long live the king" they cried...(1 Samuel 10:24) and brought him gifts.
 - He was 30 years old and when he began to rule and his reign would last 42 years (1 Samuel 13:1).
 - David would rule over the tribe of Judah when he was 30 years old as well.
 - After 7 ½ years the remaining tribes of Israel acknowledge him as king...the period between the time of being anointed and the time David begins to officially rule was 15 years...so he is anointed at 15 and becomes king at 30.

- So, if that is the case...Saul had been the king for 27 years when David is anointed as the next king...(57 years old) Saul becomes complacent and is not leading the troops as he should.

b) The slippery slope of sin.

- Saul disobeys God's command (**1 Samuel 15**) they were to wipe the Amalekites out...Saul only partially obeyed.
- Samuel tells Saul...you are rejected as king...he still has the title, but not God's power.
- **1 Samuel 17** is the story of Goliath...who will fight the giant? The tallest among them? No! a 15-year old shepherd boy.
- David becomes popular overnight...why even a song was written: the women came out in the streets with their tambourines, children danced and the song went like this: "**Saul has slain his thousands** (doo-wah, doo-wah) **and David his tens of thousands** (bee-bop, shoo-wah, oh yeah!)"
- Saul hated it, he was jealous...he was angry...fearing the kingdom was slipping from his hand he lost mental stability.
- Thanks to Saul, David went from being a national hero to being wanted "dead or alive"...he would not know peace until Saul was dead.

c) Consumed by jealousy.

- David was innocent of any wrong doing, but jealousy would rot Saul's bones. He lost all perspective.
- Notice: envy is the sin of the successful...no matter how well you do there is always someone who has done it a "tad better." (this is especially true of those who excel in the same field as you).
- ✓ Illustration: ever watch the Miss America pageant? When they announce the winner all the girls who didn't win have to act like they're happy for the girl who did.

- Saul goes on a rampage...fear turns to suspicion (David is going to take the kingdom)...suspicion leads to anger and anger to attempted murder.
- Saul tries to take David out five times...
 - ✓ Instead of “pin the tail” on the donkey...Saul came up with “pin the spear” on David’s head...David juked and jived and escaped.
 - ✓ Saul makes David commander in his army...secretly hoping the Philistines might take him out.
 - ✓ He tries the spear trick again (1 Samuel 19:9-10).
 - ✓ He tries to kill David in bed...David’s wife, Saul’s daughter – Michal tips David off (1 Samuel 19:11-17).
 - ✓ Saul tries to kill David at Ramah (1 Samuel 19:18-24). God protects David.
- ❖ Things could have been different...Saul could have recognized God’s hand was upon David...they could have partnered together...instead he allowed jealousy to consume his soul.
 - Instead of striving to be the hero, become a hero-maker. Help others become successful and reach their God given potential.

2) N.T. EXAMPLE – JEALOUSY AVOIDED. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN)

- ❖ To keep your heart in check...why are you doing what you are doing? The correct answer...to glorify God.
 - John the Baptist said of Jesus: **John 3:22-30 and 4:1-3.**
 - Principles to remember:
 - ✓ Do your best and leave the results to God.
 - ✓ Complement and celebrate kingdom wins.
 - ✓ Show respect to others...don’t crowd them or “steal” their customers or church members...Jesus heads south...into Samaria.

3) WHEN JEALOUSY BECOMES AN ISSUE: (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- a) **Admit** it – we prefer calling it a more “acceptable sin”- lack of patience, over commitment, too competitive... (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

✓ Call a spade a spade...Lord, I’m struggling with jealousy and envy.

- b) **Confess** it – agree with God that it is wrong, ask Him to forgive you and remove it from your life. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

✓ Ask God to deliver you from this sin.

- c) **Pray** for the success of the person – this will not be easy for envy makes you angry. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

✓ You ask: “how can I pray for someone who is an arrogant jerk?”

✓ Be honest...Lord, you know how I feel about this person (I don’t like them but I know you love them) so I ask that you help them see and experience your goodness.

- d) **Thank** God for the positive things you envy in others. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

✓ It helps you acknowledge how God has gifted them.

✓ Their beauty, their talent, winsome personality, athletic ability...it comes from you God.

- e) **Find** someone who needs your help. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

✓ Nothing will cure jealousy and envy like getting your eyes off of those above you or beside you and instead stepping down to wash dirty feet.

✓ A few minutes spent helping someone else will help you refocus your attention on the gifts God has given you for the benefit of others.

❖ May we learn to rejoice at the success of others. Let’s be a hero-maker!

**Pastor Ralph Schneck
First Baptist Church of Lexington
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