

Watching Out for Envy

Seven Deadly Sins

1 Kings 21:1-4

*“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. **Mark 15:9-11***

*For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. **James 3:16-18***

Envy and Jealousy are different

- **Envy** is an inordinate desire for what I do not have.
- **Jealousy** is the suspicion that what I already have will be taken away.

Two warnings or cautions for anyone who would struggle with envy.

1. Do you have a competitive nature?
2. Do you feel inadequate in some area?

*Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. **1 Kings 21:1***

Ahab said to Naboth, “Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth.” **1 Kings 21:2**

But Naboth replied, “The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.”
1 Kings 21:3

So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat. **1 Kings 21:4**

The Destructive Power of Envy

1. It ruins your personality

2. Harmful to emotional and spiritual health
3. Has a negative effect on your appearance

The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Genesis 4:4-5

*Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." **Genesis 4:6-7***

4. It will cause you to lose your sense of reason

There is no husband who doesn't need to feel that he is a champion in the eyes of his wife.

If you allow envy to fester long enough, you will begin to plot the destruction of the one you envy.

Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:5-6

but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. James 3:8

Ahab's deceit leads to his and Jezebel's death1

- **1 Kings 21-22**
- **2 Kings 9:30-37**

Ahab's Death

So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried him there. They washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria (where the prostitutes bathed), and the dogs licked up his blood, as the word of the Lord had declared.

1 Kings 22:37-38

Jezebel's Death

*"Throw her down!" Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood splattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot. **2 Kings 9:33***

Jehu went in and ate and drank.

"Take care of that cursed woman," he said, "and bury her, for she was

*a king's daughter." But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands. **2 Kings 9:34-35***

They went back and told Jehu, who said, "This is the word of the Lord that he spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite: On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel's flesh.

Jezebel's body will be like refuse on the ground in the plot at Jezreel, so that no one will be able to say, 'This is Jezebel.' " **2 Kings 9:36-37**

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Proverbs 14:30

How to prevent envy from becoming a destructive force in our lives.

- 1. We need to stop and count our blessings.**
- 2. We need to develop the maturity to work and to wait.**
- 3. We need to act lovingly toward the person we envy.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:22-24

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices

*with the truth. It always protects,
always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7