



Jealousy

MAIN THING

Jealousy is believing that you got a raw deal from God

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 4:3-8, Exodus 20:17, Proverbs 14:30, Matthew 20:1-15

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever allowed jealousy to shape the way you think about someone or a group of individuals? How did that affect you?

OPENING THOUGHT

Jealousy is the emotion that says, "God owes me." Or, more generically, "Life owes me." "If God would just take care of me the way He has taken care of other people, there wouldn't be a problem." The problem is that other people have possessions, talents, looks or other things that you don't have, and you have a problem with it. A big problem with it. However, the cure for jealousy is celebration. It is taking all of your "this is unfair, God" and throwing it away. Instead, we are happy for those whom God has blessed. Being able to celebrate the good fortune of others with no feelings of animosity or anger, is one of the greatest ways to live a joyful life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. In Genesis 4:3-8, we read the story of Cain and Abel. This is the first time we read about jealousy in the Bible. Why was Cain so angry with his brother? How can the need for acceptance lead to jealousy? How did Cain handle this? Do we see reactions like this today? How do you deal with your jealousy when it rears its ugly head?
3. Jealousy is so despised by God that He actually includes it in the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:17) What does Proverbs 14:30 say about it? How can jealousy negatively affect you daily? What facets of your life does it warp? How destructive can it be?

LIFE APPLICATION

Read Matthew 20:1-15. On Sunday, Dave said that the cure for jealousy is celebration. Is this what we see in this passage? Is that what you see in your life? It's so easy to say, "Amen" on a Sunday morning, and do the exact opposite of that thing you said "Amen" to throughout the rest of the week. Jealousy can burn like a fire. If you really want to enjoy life, extinguish that fire ASAP. Don't allow the successes of others determine the mental, emotional, or spiritual well-being of yourself. If you are struggling with feelings of jealousy toward someone, take a moment to shoot them a text celebrating how God has blessed them. Celebrating and giving honor will do more for you than you realize.

CHALLENGE

Celebration is vital to every community group. However, when we all get together, there are many times where we only focus on the negative. Make sure you take time each week to celebrate what God is doing in the lives of your group. When someone gets a raise, celebrate it. When someone buys a new house, celebrate it. When someone gets a surprise blessing from God, celebrate it. The best way to beat jealousy before it happens, is to celebrate whenever you can.