



“BECOMING ENVIOUS OF THOSE WHO HAVE MORE”

Series: “THE TEMPTATIONS OF RICHES”, Part 4 of 4

Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: I Timothy 6:9, 1 Kings 21:1-19, Proverbs 14:30

Big Idea: While envy can ruin our contentment and harm others, by God’s grace we can learn to rejoice with others in their successes while properly appreciating our own blessings.

“Painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage.” Webster’s dictionary

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

1 Kings 21:4, 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.

I. WHAT DRIVES ENVY IN OUR LIVES?

James 4:1-2a, “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want.”

Exodus 20:17, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

II. WHO DOES ENVY IMPACT?

A. It impacts others in destructive ways.

I Kings 21:7, Jezebel his wife said, “Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I’ll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

I Kings 21:15, As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, “Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead.” When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth’s vineyard.

B. It impacts me because it wrecks my contentment, and it incurs the wrath of God.

Job 5:2, Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple.

Proverbs 14:30, “A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”

I Kings 21:17, Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: “Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth’s vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. Say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?’ Then say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’”

2 Kings 9:35, But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands. 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.’”

III. HOW CAN WE OVERCOME ENVY?

I Peter 2:1, “Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.” {NASV}

A. Ask God to help you stop comparing and competing over material things.

2 Corinthians 10:12, “We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.”

“Someday you will meet a man who has no love for money, and then you’ll realize how poor you really are.” Rudyard Kipling

- B. Ask God to foster in you a greater desire for His Kingdom and His righteousness than you have for money or anything else.**

Psalm 42:1, “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.”

Hebrews 13:5, Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.” {NASV}