

**“Envy”**  
***All the Feels: When Emotions Get the Best of Us***  
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**August 16, 2020**

**Introduction:** What God cares about is not our religiosity, but our \_\_\_\_\_.

Week 1: What we say and do \_\_\_\_\_ our heart.

Week 2: Guilt is good when it leads to \_\_\_\_\_ and destructive when it lingers and leads to shame.

**This Week:** Envy has the potential to ruin what is most valuable and \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

Comparison makes us \_\_\_\_\_ when we’re successful.

Comparison leaves us \_\_\_\_\_ and discouraged when we don’t measure up.

Envy \_\_\_\_\_ relationships and has for more than 3,000 years.

\_\_\_\_\_ is looking around and comparing themselves to everyone else.

*“Envy is not a problem to solve. It’s a tension to manage.” – Andy Stanley*

This way of life is as ridiculous as \_\_\_\_\_ after the wind.

Chasing the wind is a waste of \_\_\_\_\_. Envy is a waste of your \_\_\_\_\_. Your time is your life.

**What the Bible is NOT Saying**

“Fold their hands” means “do not \_\_\_\_\_.”

The dead and the yet to be born are better off than those given to \_\_\_\_\_ and envy.

Neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor over-achievement is profitable.

The Bible is also not talking about being \_\_\_\_\_.

**What the Bible is Saying:** “\_\_\_\_\_ is actually \_\_\_\_\_ when it leads to contentment.”

*Are you trying to keep up with someone you will never keep up with?*

When you have peace in yourself, it brings \_\_\_\_\_ to those around you.

Upset people \_\_\_\_\_ people.

Better one handful with tranquility than grasping and gasping for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Some Important Questions:** “What really \_\_\_\_\_ me?”

Even when there is no one to inherit wealth, people are driven. Why?

Are you called or driven?

A calling has a \_\_\_\_\_, a path, and a pull.

A drive has a push and a \_\_\_\_\_ to it.

A calling has you asking, “What could happen if I \_\_\_\_\_ this?”

A drive has you asking, “What happens if I \_\_\_\_\_?”

Why am I depriving myself of \_\_\_\_\_?

*“You cannot compete or compare your way to peace.” – Andy Stanley*

**Action Steps:**

1. Count your \_\_\_\_\_, name them one by one. See what God has done.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ someone else.
3. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_ the life God has for you by \_\_\_\_\_ at everyone else’s.

## Daily Reading & Reflection

### August 9-15, 2020

**Monday – Ecclesiastes 1:** *“There’s nothing new on this earth. Year after year it’s the same old thing. Does someone call out, ‘Hey, this is new’? Don’t get excited – it’s the same old story.” Ecclesiastes 1:9-10*

Reading from the wisdom literature can sometimes be challenging. There are idioms and illustrations which may not be familiar to us in our current culture, and it’s also easy to read negativity into the text when the message may in fact be much more hopeful. Today’s highlighted verse stands out in particular contrast to words we later read in the Book of Revelation: “Look! I am making everything new.” The author of Ecclesiastes recognizes that it is only God who can bring new life into our world. When we feel sad, it is God who can bring about happiness and when we feel happy, and it is God who transforms it into joy.

**Take an emotional inventory as you start the week. Where can you invite God into those feelings to make something new?**

**Tuesday – Ecclesiastes 3:** *“I’ve decided that there’s nothing better to do than go ahead and have a good time and get the most we can out of life. That’s it – eat, drink, and make the most of your job. It’s God’s gift.” Ecclesiastes 3:12-13*

If there was ever a chapter in the Bible that people look to as an excuse to do whatever they want and live care-free, it is probably this one. It’s one of the most common phrases that’s been uttered throughout time, and one which is so frequently used as a reason to be apathetic, disengaged, and cynical. However, this is not the author’s intent. As Pastor Mark shared on Sunday, “Your time is your life.” We are meant to enjoy life, regardless of circumstance, because God has given us the gift of life, and we shouldn’t waste it by coveting the lives of others.

**What are five things in your life for which you’re grateful? Offer those up to God in a prayer of thanksgiving.**

**Wednesday – Ecclesiastes 4:** *“By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.” Ecclesiastes 4:12*

At the heart of envy is a relational dynamic of “us” and “them,” me versus you. I’ve got “this” and you’ve got “that,” and I want to have both “this and that.” When we allow this kind of relational thinking and behavior to fester, we soon begin to think we are entitled to “this” and “that,” and that the other, whoever that may be, is entitled to none. The Holy Spirit seeks to unite, not divide us. When we engage with the word from the mindset of “ours,” we realize the plenty of provision and goodness among us.

**Sometime over the next week, when you feel a twinge of envy, instead of following it down the rabbit trail, respond by giving something away that would be of use to someone else.**

**Thursday – Ecclesiastes 9:** *“Wisdom is better than warheads, but one hothead can ruin the good earth.” Ecclesiastes 9:18*

Pastor Mark asked us an important question in this week’s sermon: “What’s really driving me?” “Drive,” he said, “has a push and a panic to it.” Drive comes from a fear of scarcity. Calling invites us to ponder possibilities and doesn’t tether us to the coming and going of everyone around us. We can work ourselves up into such a lather over what others do or don’t do with their position in life that it can lead us to say and do harmful things and leave us worse for wear.

**Remember our action step: Don’t miss the life God has for you by looking at everyone else’s.**

**Friday – Ecclesiastes 11:** *“Be generous: Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns. Don’t hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others. This could be your last night.” Ecclesiastes 11:1-2*

Generosity and envy sit on opposite sides of the spectrum of desire. Desire is an innate part of our human make-up and a gift from God, and how we chose to wield this emotion reveals the condition of our hearts. Throughout Ecclesiastes, the author revisits over and over again the need to enjoy the moment and to give thanks for the life that we have. As followers of Jesus, we see and learn that in order to truly live our lives, we must give ourselves away. When we live for the sake of others, when the matters of our hearts are the matters of God’s, we will find ourselves truly content and glad-hearted.

**Send a text or make a call to someone in your network, and share with them how their gifts and time have blessed you recently. Let others know that their generosity of spirit hasn’t gone unnoticed.**