

Genesis 4:3-8

The Tenth Word: Covetousness and Envy

Sermon Notes for November 6, 2011 by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

You shall not **covet** [that is, things of greater value, e.g. wisdom] your neighbor's wife;
and you shall not **desire** [that is, of things of lesser value e.g. "delight to eyes"]
your neighbor's house, his field,
his male servant, his female servant,
his ox, his donkey,
or anything that is your neighbor's.'

Intro - Ps. 73:23-26; , 2-4; 27, 17-19; Sinful Coveting - Train the Brain or Greed and/or Envy Result
Evil Covetousness, Jealousy, Envy; Greed; Establishment of Private Property

I. Getting the Picture - Biblical Portrayals of Envy

A. Old Testament Examples

1. Able and Cain - Gen. 4:3-8
2. Isaac and the Philistines - Gen. 26:11-23
3. Joseph and his Brothers - Gen. 37:8-20; Acts 7:9
4. Eldad, Medad and Joshua for Moses - Num. 11:26-29
5. Hannah and Peninnah - 1 Sam. 1:2-8
6. David and Saul - 1 Sam. 18:6-12
7. A Good Mother and a Bad Mother - 1 Kings. 3:16-28

B. New Testament Examples

1. Jesus and the Pharisees - Mat. 27:18
2. The Apostles and the Jews - Acts 5:16-18; 13:44,45; 17:4-6

II. Wising Up - Envy and the Wisdom Literature of the Bible

- A. Proverbs 3:28-30; 14:21,22,30; 21:10; 24:17-20; 27:4
- B. Ecclesiastes 4:4
- C. James 3:14-17

III. Rubber on the Road: Biblical Teaching on Envy Applied to Our World

- A. Envy and Egalitarianism
- B. Envy and Revolution
- C. Envy and Slander
- D. Covetousness, Envy and Politics

IV. Cures for Envy

- A. Submission to God's Property Rights
- B. Appreciation of God's Unequal Giftings
- C. Contentment (with Thanksgiving) with One's Own Giftings
- D. Thanksgiving for God's World
- E. Confession of our Sin
- F. Seeking the Advancement of our Neighbor
- G. Prayer for our Adversaries
- H. Salvation by Grace, not Environment

Children's Activity for Sermon on Envy

1. _____ is our very great reward.
2. Is it wrong to desire things?
3. Sinful coveting says "I want _____ that God gave to you and I will try to take them."
4. Greed says "I always want _____ things."
5. Envy says "I want things that God gave to you, but I can't have them, so I will _____ them or you."
6. Out of envy, Cain _____ Abel, his brother.
7. Out of envy, the Philistines _____ up Isaac's wells.
8. Out of envy, Joseph's brothers planned to _____ him.
9. Out of envy, Joshua tried to _____ men from speaking God's Word.
10. Out of envy, King Saul threw a _____ at David.
11. Out of envy, an evil mother wanted to have another mother's _____ killed.
12. Because they could never be as good as Jesus, the _____ had Pilate kill him.
13. Envy _____ our bones.
14. We should be thankful for other people's _____.
15. We should _____ for our enemies.