Comparison is the Thief of Joy

Greg Kline · 1 Samuel 18:1–30

INTRODUCTION

- In Proverbs chapter 14 and verse 30, the Proverbs writer says, A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.
- Theodore Roosevelt is attributed the saying, Comparison is the thief of joy.

1 Saul's Descent Into Jealousy

1 Samuel 18:1–9; 1 Samuel 18:10–16

- Who came to love David? None other than Jonathan, the very son of Saul.
- It's important to note that David's success did not mean that Saul was unsuccessful. But Saul took it that way.
- Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul.
- Once Saul was in the mindset of jealousy, once he was caught up in the high of jealousy, he had no joy. He had no peace.

2 The Bottoming Out Point

1 Samuel 18:28–30; 1 Samuel 28:15–17

- David was in the power of God. God was on David's side.
- Let me be clear David's success was Saul's success.
- Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you.
- Saul continually turned against God, and yet David, the one of whom he was jealous, was successful because of who? Because of God.

3 One of Those Costs Is Ungratefulness

1 Thessalonians 5:18; Galatians 5:19–21; Galatians 5:22–26

- Give thanks in all circumstances. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus in you.
- The problem with envy is when we look at somebody else or something else, and we say, I should have that.
- Being envious, being jealous is a sin. And as such, if we practice those, we will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- Because if I'm thankful, if I'm at peace, then I'm not worried about what somebody else has.

4 The Biggest Marker of Jealousy Is Pride

Luke 18:9–14; Matthew 18:1–4

- For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

- The biggest problem with discontentment, with ungratefulness, with jealousy and envy, is it comes from a place of I deserve better.
- Pride is rooted in the self-righteousness that comes from comparing ourselves to others.
- When we look at somebody else, we don't answer for somebody else. I answer for me. My happiness is determined by my relationship with God.

5 It Hinders Our Love

Romans 12:10–16; 1 Corinthians 13:4

- Love one another with brotherly affection, outdo one another in showing honor.
- We are to rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- What is it that Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 and verse 4? Love does not envy.
- The only way to combat that is to proactively focus on others' good rather than self.

6 The Highest Cost: Using the Wrong Standard

Luke 18:11–14

- The highest cost of jealousy is it proves we're using the wrong standard.
- But why don't we compare ourselves to good examples? Where's the comparison to a holy man?
- Jesus calls us not to be like other men, but to follow in his footsteps. Our target, our standard is singular and is to be holy as God is holy.
- The ones who humble themselves are submitting to the standard of Christ.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Don't leave this building in any doubt this morning. Make things right with God. Let's all work together, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep.**

MY NOTES