

The Arrows of Envy and Jealously

Genesis 37

What Envy and Jealously Mean:

Both words come from the same Hebrew word which means “to be intensely red.” It is the picture of one whose face is flushed as a sudden surge of blood announces the rush of emotion. It is the same emotion that the writer of Proverbs describes:

Proverbs 6:34-35; “For jealousy is a husband’s fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will accept no recompense, nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.”

Webster: “resentful and envious, as of someone’s success, achievements, advantages, proceeding from suspicious fears or envious resentment: inclined to suspicions or fears of rivalry, unfaithfulness, etc.”

This kind of jealousy is a sin and is not to be characteristic of a Christian.

Galatians 5:26; *“Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”*

What Is The Effects of Envy and Jealously?

Enter Genesis 29:18 through 37:3

1) Deeper Sin:

Read Genesis 37:31-33

2) Scared Emotions:

a) Isolation of self and others

b) A critical spirit

c) A divided mind

- d) Unforgiveness
- e) Anger, bitterness, and resentment
- f) These lead to possessiveness
- g) Leads to adversity and adversity leads to defeat

How Do We Overcome Jealousy and Envy?

1) Remember:

a) The Sovereignty of God:

Gen. 50:20; “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Eph. 2:10; “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Romans 8:28; “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

b) The Peace of God:

Gen. 39:21; “But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.”

Philippians 4:6-7; “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

c) The Plan of God:

2) Rely on God:

How do we rely on God? By trusting Him!

Proverbs 3:5-6; *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path.”*

3) Redirect Your Focus:

4) Relinquish Your Heart: Lordship

5) Reject the Arrows of Jealousy and Envy:

Read Romans 8:35-39

Philippians 4:13; *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*