

## 7 Things That Steal Your Joy

Week 6 – Jealousy and Envy ~ August 20, 2006

God said, “You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife...or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.” Exodus chapter 20 verse 17 (59)

- Coveting, envying what others have is a HUGE reason we lose joy in our lives
- God wants us to love & appreciate our own house, our own spouse, our own abilities, our own bodies, our own lives

Is it wrong for us to desire what other people have?

- No...BUT it becomes wrong when I am no longer thankful for what I have because I keep thinking about what you have!

And besides, I hurt God’s feelings when I do this...

- ***It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.*** 1 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 11 (877)

- ***You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body & knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous...!***

Psalm 139 verses 13 & 14 (476)

- Jealousy & envy robs my joy because it makes me believe that God ripped me off, and it keeps me from being blessed by what God gave others around me!

\*\* KEY \*\* Here’s the Joy-builder...God wants me to acknowledge my uniqueness! And God has an individualized & specialized plan just for me! ***“I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good & not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”*** Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 11 (596)

How do I do this??

Learn to appreciate what others have without diminishing what God’s already given me

- ***I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.*** Philippians chapter 4 verse 11 (901)
- When I envy what someone else has, I’m really telling God that I’m not happy with what he’s already given me
- There is joy in celebrating God’s goodness to others & in joining with them as they rejoice
- ***Be happy with those who are happy, & weep with those who weep.*** Romans chapter 12 verse 15 (866)

I need to acknowledge that God alone sees the whole picture in blessing others

*Before envying what someone else has, work thru these questions:*

- How hard am I willing to work in my life to get that?
- What kind of sacrifices am I willing to make to have that?
- What am I willing to do to lay my life down to serve others as that person has?
- How long do I need to sow seeds before God lets me harvest that?
- In what areas of my life do I need to be obedient to God in before he allows me to have that?
- What sin do I continue to tolerate in my life that is keeping God from blessing me in that way?
- Do I trust that God knows what is best for me?

I need to keep my heart in check

***The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?*** Jeremiah chapter 17 verse 9 (587)

- I need to acknowledge my struggle and ask God for help with it
- Do you want to be joyful and blessed? Acknowledge your pride & envy, be honest with God about it and ask him to allow you to live free from them. Remember, God loves humility and loves to bless obedience
- Sometimes my envy will cause me to get ahead of God in an area that God ultimately wants to bless me with. But if I get there first because of my envy & striving, I will have the “thing” without the joy!
- ***The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.***

Proverbs chapter 10 verse 22 (487)

Learn to give God radical obedience

***Trust in the Lord and do good. ...Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. ...Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Psalm 37 verses 3-5 & 7 (429)***

- trust - put your confidence in God, not yourself, to bring about the stuff you want in life!
- take delight - give yourself completely to
- everything you do - the course of your life
- be still - stop your own efforts, stop manipulating, blowing thru the "Stop signs!"
- wait patiently - be hopeful
- If you want outrageous blessing, you have to give God outrageous obedience!!

Learn the limits of your own power & efforts

***Peter said, "I'm going fishing." "We'll come, too," the other disciples said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. John chapter 21 verse 3 (829)***

- Doing things in my own power & strength leaves me tired, empty and unfulfilled
- Even good things & good opportunities can become times of self-promotion & self-advancement when driven by comparison, envy and /or the desire to control my own life
- ***Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.***

*Proverbs chapter 3 verses 5-7 (482)*

A good prayer...*God, I don't want to do anything today without you. If I try to do something that your not in, please put up a "Stop sign" & then give me the wisdom to stop. Help me not to be stiff-necked, stubborn or hard-hearted. I already know that if I get my way and it's not what you want, it will never be best for me. So please let me follow you alone, and please make your way very clear to me. Amen.*

Some wise counsel...

- ☑ ***My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen carefully to my wise counsel.***  
*Proverbs chapter 5 verse 1 (484)*
- ☑ ***...There is safety in having many advisers.*** *Proverbs chapter 11 verse 14 (488)*
- ☑ ***Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.*** *Proverbs chapter 15 verse 22 (491)*
- ☑ ***And so, my children, listen to me, for all who follow my ways are joyful. Listen to my instructions and be wise. Don't ignore it. Joyful are those who listen to me...***

*Proverbs chapter 8 verses 32-34 (486)*

***Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied. Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. John chapter 21 verses 4-6 (829)***

- Fishing somewhere that God doesn't want me to fish is like fishing on the wrong side of the boat. I can work real hard at something good & accomplish nothing!
- So, are you catching any fish???

This series is based on book Seven Things that Steal your Joy, by Joyce Meyers.  
Next week we continue with "Discontentment."