

"Confronting Jealousy"

April 29, 2018



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Exodus 20:1-6, James 4:1-3, Romans 8:28

DAY 1

We have tackled some of the issues that cause us to have challenges in our relationships as well as the battles within us. The four areas we confronted were guilt, anger, greed and jealousy.

- **Guilt** was defined when taking our prayer to God and then believing everything is better. But what we neglect is going to the person we have harmed, confessing to them and seeking forgiveness and restoration. Why is this so hard?
- **Anger** is the emotion that keeps us from working with or loving others. When anger lives in our heart we cannot connect. Jesus said we are to interrupt worship and leave our offerings at the altar to first go to the person we are at odds with and reconcile. How are you doing with this?
- **Greed** is the third challenge. When we forget God is responsible for our abundance and do not give him all the credit, our focus is on self. Selfishness leads to greed and when greed lives in us, we no longer see the value of God. Where does greed reside in you? How are you combating it?
- **Jealousy** is more than simply wanting what others have; jealousy is also thinking you are owed something, just because. How can you combat the jealous feelings in your heart?

DAY 2

Read Exodus 20:1-6

- This passage says *"God is jealous..."* What does this mean? Is this jealousy described similar to the jealousy we feel? Why or why not?
- How is God's jealousy to be understood?
- In Hebrew, the word used for jealousy is found in the vocabulary of the word "love." Reflect on this and how you interpret this term.

DAY 3

Read James 4:1

- Jealousy is something that can be extremely dangerous in our relationships. What do you think causes us to be jealous of one another?

You may not think that you quarrel in the Biblical sense, but James defines quarreling as: disagreements, arguing, grudges, resentment, etc.

- How are you confronting these areas of your life and behavior?

James also talks about the battles that come from "within." Take time to reflect on how things go for you when you aren't happy within your heart. Jesus said you cannot love God and neighbor until you learn to love yourself.

- How can you confront the inner battles in you? What needs to change? Why?

DAY 4

Read James 4:2

Part of our jealousy comes because we get upset that someone else has something we think we should have or deserve. We get wound up inside over the other person's perceived advantage over us. The reality is, we are angry at God because God has given them what we feel we deserve.

- **Why do you feel God owes you what you want?**
- **How do you explain those instances where the guy whose life is a train wreck seems to have more and you, who lives his/her life on the up and up, seem to have less?**
- **What do you think James means when he says we are willing to "kill" for what we want because of our jealousy?**

DAY 5

Read James 4:3

- **What do you think James means when he says, *"You do not have because you have not asked God?"***

Part of why many of us don't want to ask God is we are afraid God will say "no" to our request. Think about it, if you truly believe God is all knowing and all powerful, why would you get angry when God's answer to your prayer is "no"?

- **Why would God say "no" to your prayer? When was a time this happened to you? How did you deal with it?**

The Bible says, *"God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28)

- **How is God working for your good right now?**