



Coveting the Consequences of Corruption

Matt. 27:15-23

Matthew 27:15-23

- “Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. 16 And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. 17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ? 18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him. 20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 21 The governor answered and said to them, Which of the two do you want me to release to you? They said, Barabbas! 22 Pilate said to them, What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? They all said to him, Let Him be crucified! 23 Then the governor said, Why, what evil has He done? But they cried out all the more, saying, Let Him be crucified!”

Envy Is An Open Sore On The Soul Of The World

- “The motive behind criticism often determines its validity. Those who care criticize where necessary. Those who envy criticize the moment they think that they have found a weak spot.” (Crissjami)
- “Hatred is active ill will, and envy passive dislike; yet, there is but one step from envy to hate.” (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)
- “God's truth judges created things out of love, and Satan's truth judges them out of envy and hatred.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Envy Is An Open Sore On The Soul Of The World

- “Envy is the religion of the mediocre. It comforts them, it soothes their worries, and finally it rots their souls, allowing them to justify their meanness and their greed until they believe these to be virtues. Such people are convinced that the doors of heaven will be opened only to poor wretches like themselves who go through life without leaving any trace but their threadbare attempts to belittle others and to exclude - and destroy if possible - those who, by the simple fact of their existence, show up their own poorness of spirit, mind, and guts. Blessed be the one at whom the fools bark, because his soul will never belong to them.”
(Carlos Ruiz Zafón)

What Is Envy?

- “A feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by and in conjunction with desire for the possessions or qualities of another”
(American Heritage Dictionary)
- Envy, just like lust, is a feeling that is a sin without ever speaking or acting upon it.

What Is Envy?

- It is a characteristic of pagan Gentiles
 - Rom. 1:29
- It is a work of the flesh
 - Gal. 5:21
- It is the condition of sinners before the Gospel
 - Titus 3:3

What Is Envy?

- Christians have no reason to envy anyone of anything, because as children of God, all things are theirs by inheritance anyway
 - 1Cor. 3:21-23 - “Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--all are yours. 23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.”

What Is Envy?

- The Bible instructs us that some persons should never be envied.
 - The violent
 - The arrogant
 - The unrighteous

The Violent

- Prov. 3:31-32 - “Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways; 32 For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with the upright.” (NKJV - “oppressor”; ASV - “man of violence”)
- Mercenaries, bullies, those who love hurting and killing others, and leader who controls others by fear and violence

The Violent

- Why is it necessary to warn God's children of this? "Why would Christians envy the violent?"
- Violence has its wealth and rewards in this world
 - Prov. 11:16 - "A gracious woman retains honor, But ruthless men retain riches."
 - Prov. 4:17 - "For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence."

The Violent

- God does not tolerate it; nor is He entertained by the violence of others
 - Gen. 6:11 - “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.”
 - Psalm 11:5 - “The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.”
 - Jer. 22:3 - “Thus says the LORD: Execute judgment and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.”
 - Luke 3:14 - “Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, And what shall we do? So he said to them, Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

The Violent

- God's children do not envy the violent
 - Prov. 9:6 - "Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding"
 - Prov. 29:6 - "By transgression an evil man is snared, But the righteous sings and rejoices."
 - Psalm 140:11 - "Let not a slanderer be established in the earth; Let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow him"
 - Ecc. 5:8 - "If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them."

The Arrogant

- Psalm 73:3 - “For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.” (NKJV - “boastful”; ASV - “arrogant”)
- One who believes himself better than others and sets himself apart from them as a result of his mistaken belief

The Arrogant

- Why warn God's children not to envy the arrogant? Don't Christians already understand that pride is a sin?
- God has no tolerance for arrogance
 - Prov. 21:24 - "A proud and haughty man; Scoffer is his name; He acts with arrogant pride."

The Arrogant

- Prov. 8:13 - “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate”
- Psalm 5:5 - “The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.”
- Psalm 94:4 - “They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves.”

The Arrogant

- God's children do not envy the arrogant; they know themselves, and they also know the end result of arrogance
 - Prov. 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."
 - Psalm 94:23 - "He has brought on them their own iniquity, And shall cut them off in their own wickedness; The LORD our God shall cut them off."

The Arrogant

- Psalm 75:4-7 - "I said to the boastful, 'Do not deal boastfully,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn. 5 Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck.' 6 For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another."
- Isa. 13:11 - "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible."
- Rom. 1:30, 32 - "...proud, boasters... 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

The Unrighteous

- Psalm 37:1-2 - “Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.”
- Prov. 23:17 - “Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day”
- Prov. 24:1-2 - “Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them; 2 For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking.”

The Unrighteous

- Why warn God's children against envying the unrighteous? Don't Christians already know that they are in the world, but not of the world?
- Unrighteousness is pleasurable to a degree, and sinners appear to have so much fun
 - Heb. 11:25 - "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin"

The Unrighteous

- God cannot have a relationship with the unrighteous.
 - Psalm 1:5 - “Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.”
 - James 4:8 - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

The Unrighteous

- Prov. 1:10-15 - “My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. 11 If they say, Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; 12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; 13 We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; 14 Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse - 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path”

The Unrighteous

- God's children do not envy the unrighteous. They understand their fate.
 - Psalm 73:17-18 - "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. 18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction."
 - Isa. 1:28 - "The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together, And those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed."
 - Rev. 21:8 - "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Coveting the Consequences of Corruption

- We often find ourselves tempted to envy the lives of the violent, arrogant, and unrighteous in this life. Resist that temptation or share their destiny in the life that is to come.
- For those who overcome that temptation: the violent, arrogant, and unrighteous will envy your eternal destiny, but they will do so from Perdition.