

Jealousy And Its Ugly Consequences
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Genesis 37:1-4, 18-28 CEB

1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

I. Introduction (From Our Daily Bread , Radio Bible Class)

In the book *God in the Dock*, author C. S. Lewis describes the kind of people we have trouble getting along with. Selfishness, anger, jealousy, or other quirks often sabotage our relationship with them. We sometimes think, Life would be much easier if we didn't have to contend with such difficult people.

Lewis then turns the tables on us by pointing out that these frustrations are what God has to endure with each of us every day. He writes: "You are just that sort of person. You also have a fatal flaw in your character. All the hopes and plans of others have again and again shipwrecked on your character just as your hopes and plans have shipwrecked on theirs." This self-awareness should motivate us to try to show the same patience and acceptance to others that God shows to us daily.

In Ephesians, Paul exhorts us to arm ourselves relationally “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love” (4:2). The one who is patient is better able to deal with a difficult person without becoming provoked to anger and retaliation. Instead, he or she is able to endure, exhibiting grace in spite of upsetting behavior.

Are there difficult people in your life? Ask God to show His love through you.

Some people can be difficult to love,

And so we do not even try to care;

But God says, “Love them just as I’ve loved you—

You’ll bring Me glory as My love you share.” —Cetas

See others as God sees you.

II. Jealousy Poisons Our Spirit. God Knew That Left Untreated Jealousy Could Destroy Lives.

Numbers 5:25 CEB (OT The Priest Presented Jealousy Offerings)

25 The priest will take the grain offering for jealousy from the woman’s hands, elevate the grain offering before the Lord, and bring it to the altar.

Proverbs 14:30 CEB (In The OT God Warns Us Of Jealousy’s Negative Effects)

30 A peaceful mind gives life to the body,

but jealousy rots the bones.

Sirach 30:24 CEB apocrypha (Jealousy Will Shorten Your Life)

24 Jealousy and anger

shorten a person’s life,

and anxiety brings old age

before its time.

III. Jealousy Motivated The Chief Priests To Kill Jesus.

Mark 15:6-13 CEB (Jesus was handed over to be crucified because of Jealousy.)

6 During the festival, Pilate released one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. 7 A man named Barabbas was locked up with the rebels who had committed murder during an uprising. 8 The crowd pushed forward and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did. 9 Pilate answered them, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" 10 **He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy.** 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead. 12 Pilate replied, "Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?"

13 They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

IV. Early Church Almost Destroyed By Jealousy

I Corinthians 3:3-11

3 Now you are still not up to it because you are still unspiritual. **When jealousy and fighting exist between you, aren’t you unspiritual and living by human standards?** 4 When someone says, "I belong to Paul," and someone else says, "I belong to Apollos," aren’t you acting like people without the Spirit? 5 After all, what is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants who helped you to believe. Each one had a role given to them by the Lord: 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. 7 Because of this, neither the one who plants nor the

one who waters is anything, but the only one who is anything is God who makes it grow. 8The one who plants and the one who waters work together, but each one will receive their own reward for their own labor. 9 We are God's coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

10 I laid a foundation like a wise master builder according to God's grace that was given to me, but someone else is building on top of it. Each person needs to pay attention to the way they build on it.11 No one can lay any other foundation besides the one that is already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The self-destructive emotion of jealousy had the potential of tearing apart the Corinthian church. These believers had received the gospel but had not allowed the Holy Spirit to change their hearts. As a result, they became jealous of one another, which led to a divided community. Paul identified their jealousy as a sign of immaturity and worldliness (1 Cor. 3:3). (Marvin Williams, Bible Teacher, ODB)

The Spirit of Man abides in the heart the scriptures declare, and that which flows out of your heart determines the course of your life. That is why it is so necessary for us to allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse and recreate the spirit within. For faith can bring you to the door of salvation's grace, but its only by granting Jesus Lordship, and the free reign of the Holy Spirit. That the new man, can see the liberty of Christ bear fruit in the one's life. Being set free from the in cumbersomeness of carnality, and enjoying the love of God made manifest.

Conclusion

Jacob's brothers attempted to remove what they thought was the source of their jealousy. They believed by getting rid of Joseph, it would eliminate their problems with it. Well, God's will and word had already gone forth, and God had plans for Joseph. So despite their actions Joseph's destiny was still on course. For God had a plan for Joseph, which would save millions of lives. The brothers actions did not remove the sin, but only caused heartache for many years, and suffering in both soul and spirit. Only by the grace shown by Joseph to his brothers, was restoration found. Oh, but how many years of torment had they endured.

Please be careful that you don't set your mind and emotions on course in life, to allow jealousy to rule. Let God's peace be that which is applied to your heart, and make sure that you don't try to silence the messenger. Of whom might actually be your salvation in life.