



WEEK FOUR - ENVY

POINT: Envy is the resentment caused by another person having something that you do not have but want.

Philosopher Gabriele Taylor warns about the impact of envy in two ways: (1) Envy tends to generate not only a kind of sadness in the soul, (2) but also a sadness mingled with hatred because they see someone else possessing a good that the envious person thought was not worthy of them.

POINT: Envy rejects the good life God has given me and obsesses over what God gives someone else.

1 Samuel 8:1-7 NRSV

When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "Behold, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king to judge us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.

1 Samuel 8:19-22 NRSV

But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king."

"The answer is that the lives I look at from afar are not mine. They belong to others. They're filled with different struggles, different obstacles, and different experiences of God. Those around me are growing in different ways, with different stories. Their souls need to be repaired in different places, and their talents are made to serve different people. They are not on my path, and I am not on theirs. I need to grow in other places. I need different kinds of surgery." - Jeff Cook, Seven: The Deadly Sins and The Beatitudes

POINT: The antidote to envy is gratitude and generosity.