

HWLF: He Would Love First - Part 1

Contentment

Randy Hageman

Part of HWLF: He Would Love First Answering the Question, "What would Jesus do?"

October 2, 2020

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October 4, 2020

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What would Jesus do? – from the book, *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?*, by Charles Monroe Sheldon (1896)

*For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might **follow in his steps**. (emphasis added)*

—1 Peter 2:20-21 (ESV)

WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)? > HWLF (He Would Love First)!

We love because he first loved us.

—1 John 4:19 (ESV)

It's arguable that no generation before us has struggled with discontent as much as ours. Although we still have poverty and economic inequality, the everyday lives of most of us are filled with convenience, opportunity, and abundance—sometimes to the point of excess. Yet it doesn't take much for us to feel as though we aren't getting everything we deserve and to face disappointment. Add social media and what do you get? Never before have so many people had so much and felt

so dissatisfied.

—Craig Groeschel

The problem is we're seeing everyone else's ___ in social media, while we're focusing on all the dailiness and problems in our lives.

If people are focusing on what others have versus focusing on ___, they're always going to come up short.

Jesus: 'But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.'

—Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

Standards are all out of whack, driven by what people see and what the world says matters, versus what our ___ says matters and how He sees us.

When we love others first...

- **It ___ their heart, that someone would care.**
- **We have an opportunity to talk about ___ and how his love set us free and how it can set them free, too.**

Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you respond.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through [Christ] who gives me strength.

—Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV11)

Contentment is resting in the love of God and understanding and believing that it is, in fact, ___!

People will battle with discontent in their lives until they let Christ be all they ___.

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you.

—Augustine

...[God] has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

—Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)

HOW DO WE BATTLE ENVY AND KILL COMPARISONS?

1) Stop ___ ourselves to others.

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

—2 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV)

There is no win in comparisons.

—Pastor Andy Stanley

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

—James 3:14-16 (NIV)

'You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

—Exodus 20:17 (ESV)

Envy in God's eyes isn't just unhealthy for us - it's ____, meaning it's destructive to us and to others, even if it doesn't seem that way in the moment.

2) ___ other people's successes.

Celebrating others' successes takes the focus off of ___ and puts it on God and others.

3) Learn to be ____ and practice it continually.

Envy is resenting God's goodness in other people's lives and ignoring God's goodness in your own life.

Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

—Ecclesiastes 6:9 (NLT)

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—Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV11)

Next Week: Compassion

AIRSHOW SUNDAY!

IN THE PARKING LOT AT GATEWAY WITH A VIEW OF THE AIRSHOW AT ELLINGTON



SUN OCT 11

11AM – 4PM

Food Trucks on-site



(BRING YOUR CHAIRS, UMBRELLAS, CANOPIES, SNACKS, ETC.)
AND WE WILL SUPPLY THE PLANES... LOTS AND LOTS OF PLANES!!!