

RELATIONSHIPS 101

October 22, 2017

LOVE DOES NOT ENVY

“Love does not envy.” 1 Cor. 13:4b (NIV)

- ◆ **Resenting God's goodness to others**
- ◆ **Ignoring God's goodness to me**

*“Wherever there is envy... you'll find every kind of evil.”
James 3:16*

Jesus' Story of the Vineyard Workers (Matt. 20:1-16)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

THE ANTIDOTE FOR ENVY

1. **STOP _____ YOURSELF TO OTHERS.**
“Those hired last came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more.”

Matt. 20:9-10a (Msg)

2. **START _____ GOD’S GRACE TO OTHERS.**
“The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard... He said, ‘Are you envious because I am generous to them?’”

Matt. 20:10-11, 15b (CEV/NIV)

“Rejoice with those who rejoice!” Rom. 12:15 (NIV)

3. BE GRATEFUL FOR _____

“Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from God? So what's the point of all this comparing and competing? You already have all you need!”

1 Cor. 4:7b-8a (Msg)

“It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else.” Eccl. 6:9 (GN)

4. TRUST GOD WHEN _____

“These last workers put in only one easy hour, and yet you have made them equal to us – we who slaved all day under a scorching sun!” Matt. 20:12 (Msg)

The Owner: “Friends, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on... What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?”

Matt. 20:13-15a (CEV)

5. KEEP FOCUSED ON _____ FOR YOU.

The Owner: “Take your money now and go!”

Matt. 20:14a (GW)

“Let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.” Heb. 12:1 (LB)

“You saw me before I was born and scheduled every day of my life before I began to breathe.”

Ps. 139:15 (LB)

Jesus concluded:

“And so it is, that many who are first now will be last then and those who are last now will be first then... If you want to be great, you must become the servant of all the others.”

Matt. 20:16 & 26 (NLT/CEV)

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO...

- Come to a “Community” Growth Group. (Mondays 6:30p.m.)
- Sign up for Membership Class.
- Commit to the “Building Blocks” of a life of love.
- Volunteer for a role in the Trunk or Treat outreach. (Oct. 30)

Memory Verse

*“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude “
— 1 Corinthians 13:4*