

The Green-eyed Monster

Text : **James 3: 13-18 ; Deuteronomy 29: 14-21**

S#1.

A. In Chapter 3 James addressed the problem of everyone wanting to be a leader.

1. He says, before one can be a leader he must be mature enough to control his tongue.

James 3: 1 – Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that S#2.
as such we will incur a stricter judgment. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

2. Salvation is communicated by the tongue, but it also has the potential for great harm.
 - a. Like the bit in the horse's mouth or the rudder on a ship.
 - b. Though small, it can ignite great controversy ... *fire from Hell*.

B. Now James addresses a couple other requirements for leadership in the church.

1. Bro. James affirms that one must demonstrate a level of spiritual wisdom.

James 3: 13-15 – Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show S#3.
by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. **15** This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

2. There is a wisdom that is from God and a wisdom the is from Satan.
 - a. The origin of one's wisdom is not determined by how much he knows.
 - b. The origin of one's wisdom is demonstrated by his deeds. **i.e.**, by his life.
3. False wisdom that is not from God has three characteristics.
 - a. **earthly** : Useful only in this temporary realm on earth (**John 3: 12** .. earthly things)
 - b. **natural** : "Unspiritual" Of animal life, feelings, instincts (**Jude 19** .. worldly-minded)
 - c. **demonic** : proceeding from an evil spirit, of the devil (word used only here)

C. James then gives two indications as to the origin of wisdom.

1. Wisdom is not from above if one's life has selfish ambition.
 - a. We will consider this next week.
 - b. Anything that is selfish is not loving.
 - c. Love is the most important aspect of following God.
2. Bitter jealousy is a characteristic of wisdom that is earthly, natural, demonic.
 - a. Bitter, salty, pungent
 - b. Most jealousy carries with it an element of resentfulness and / or envy.

I. Jealousy is most often spoken of as negative.**S#4.****A. The O.T. is filled with stories of jealousy.****S#5.**

1. **Gen. 4** ... Cain killed Abel because he was jealous.
2. **Gen. 37** ... Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery because of jealousy.
3. **Num. 12** ... Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses out of jealousy.
4. **I Sam. 18f** ... Most famous story of jealousy is Saul and David.

B. In the N.T. the Jews had an ongoing problem with jealousy.

1. The motivating factor behind the Jewish leaders' hatred of Jesus was jealousy.
 - a. **Matt. 27: 17-18** – So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" **18** For he knew that because of envy they had handed Him over. **S#6.**
 - b. When Jesus made His triumphal entry the Jews resented the adulation he received.
2. **Acts 5: 16-18** – Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed. **17** But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. **18** They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. **S#7.**
3. **Acts 13: 44-45** – The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. **45** But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. **46** Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly ... **S#8.**

C. Lest we judge the Jews harshly, similar things happen in our brotherhood today.

1. When a faithful preacher begins to become famous, he is attacked by a host of knit-picky accusations or branded as out of the mainstream and often driven out.
2. When a congregation begins to grow more than the others in the area, it is almost automatically branded as liberal and accused of being unsound.
3. **True Example :** A congregation was growing much faster than any in the area. **S#9.** A nearby preacher arranged a meeting with the elders of that congregation and brought the preachers from other area congregations. They convinced those elders that they needed to fire their dynamic preacher quickly because he was becoming so popular that it would soon be impossible for them to fire him and he would take over the congregation. When they fired him the evangelistic thrust of the congregation was diminished to the point that the growth of the congregation stopped. As the congregation drifted back into the defensive mode, it began to lose the zealous and became a dead attendance oriented congregation like the others in the area.

D. God used the propensity of the Jews toward jealousy to reach out to them.

1. **Rom. 11: 11, 14-15** – ... But by their (*the Jews*) transgression salvation has **S#10.**
come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. ... I magnify my ministry,
14 if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save
some of them. **15** For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world,
what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?
2. God is able to take even evil things and work them for good.
3. When a child sees another child enjoying the consequences of good, he wants some.

II. Jealousy must be eliminated because it produces evil fruit.**S#11.**

- A. **Matt. 12: 33** – Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the **S#12.**
tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

B. Jealousy is part of the carnal nature of the unredeemed.

1. **I Cor. 3: 2-3** – I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet **S#13.**
able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, **3** for
you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among
you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

2. The Apostle feared that the Corinthians continued to practice jealousy.

II Cor. 12: 20 – ... we have been speaking in Christ; and all for your **S#14.**
upbuilding, beloved. **20** For I am afraid that perhaps when I come
I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be
not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry
tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

3. Jealousy and the strife it produces is condemned as evil behavior in the church.

- a. **Rom. 13: 13-14** – Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and **S#15.**
drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in
strife and jealousy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and
make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

- b. Again, jealousy is contrasted to putting on Christ.

C. One cannot be identified as a Christian as long as jealousy remains.

1. **John 13: 34-35** – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one **S#16.**
another, even as I have loved you, that you also love
one another. **35** By this all men will know that you are
My disciples, if you have love for one another.

2. Love seeks the benefit of another; but jealousy seeks the benefit of self.

S#17.

III. Those who are spiritually wise and mature have grown past jealousy.

A. Definitions of “Jealous” :

S#18.

1. Dictionary.com
feeling resentment against someone because of that person's success, or advantages characterized by or proceeding from suspicious fears or envious resentment
2. Merriam-Webster
 - a. envious, hostile toward a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage
 - b. disposed to suspect rivalry or unfaithfulness (*as of a jealous husband*)

B. Jealousy is within the nature of man, but a Christian must control it.

S#19.

1. **Num. 5: 11-31** ... Even the Law of Moses dealt with the problem of jealousy.
 - a. This ritual was designed to turn it over to God before it got out of hand.
 - b. **Prov. 6: 34-35** – **For jealousy enrages a man, And he will not spare in the day of vengeance. 35 He will not accept any ransom, Nor will he be satisfied though you give many gifts.**
2. Do not forget, the husband had the right of life and death over his wife.
 - a. **Lev. 20: 10** ... Those who committed adultery were to be put to death.
 - b. **Matt. 19: 8** ... The right of divorce was granted because of hardness of hearts.
 - c. **Matt. 1: 19 -cf- Deut. 20: 20-24** ... Joseph was going to put Mary away quietly.

C. Putting away jealousy is a part of Christian maturity. (esp. leaders)

S#20.

1. Jealousy is part of the result of worldliness, it is a deed of the flesh. (**natural**)
 - a. **Gal. 5: 19** – **Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** S#21.
 - b. If **practiced** these things will keep one out of Heaven.
 - c. Jealousy is listed with sins viewed as especially bad : immorality, idolatry, etc.
2. Before one can begin the growth process he must purge these things from his heart.

1 Pet. 2: 1-3 – **Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.** S#22.

D. Jealousy is the antithesis of love.

1. **I Cor. 13: 4-5** – Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, S#23.
2. Love seeks the highest for others.
Phil. 2: 3-5 – Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, S#24.

CONCLUSION :**A. So what have we learned ?** S#25.

1. The bible has a significant amount to say about jealousy and it's all negative.
 - a. Jealousy has brought a lot of harm to bible characters.
 - b. Jealousy motivated the Jewish leaders to petition for the crucifixion.
2. Because of its evil fruit, jealousy must be purged from our hearts.
 - a. It is part of the carnal nature of lost mankind
 - b. Jealousy is associated with all sorts of other evil attitudes.
3. Overcoming jealous is essential to spiritual maturity.
James 3: 13-15 – Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show S#26.
 by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. **15** This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

B. Jealousy is the antithesis of Christianity because it is antithetical to love.

1. God is love. *Thus, jealousy is the opposite of God.*
2. Love is our most important commandment. *Jealous is directly opposed to virtue.*
3. Love is our distinguishing characteristic. *Jealousy destroys our influence.*

C. Jealousy is : earthly, natural, demonic ... clearly a product of Hell. S#27.

S#28. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 3: 13-18**

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. **15** This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. **18** And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Deuteronomy 29: 14-21

14 "Now not with you alone am I making this covenant and this oath, **15** but both with those who stand here with us today in the presence of the Lord our God and with those who are not with us here today **16** (for you know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed; **17** moreover, you have seen their abominations and their idols of wood, stone, silver, and gold, which they had with them); **18** so that there will not be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of those nations; that there will not be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood. **19** It shall be when he hears the words of this curse, that he will boast, saying, 'I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart in order to destroy the watered land with the dry.' **20** The Lord shall never be willing to forgive him, **but rather the anger of the Lord and His jealousy will burn against that man**, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven. **21** Then the Lord will single him out for adversity from all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant which are written in this book of the law.