

WALKING TOWARD ETERNITY
ENGAGING THE STRUGGLES OF YOUR HEART
BIBLE REFERENCES
SESSION 4- ENGAGING YOUR ENVY

SESSION 4 - DAY 1 - Engaging Your Envy

a) James 4:1-3

1 Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions* that make war within your members? 2 You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask. 3 You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

b) Genesis 30:1

When Rachel saw that she had not borne children to Jacob, she became envious of her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children or I shall die!"

c) Proverbs 14:30

A tranquil mind gives life to the body, but jealousy rots the bones.

d) James 3:14-16

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 Wisdom of this kind does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice.

Question 4 - 1 Samuel 18:6-11

6 At the approach of Saul and David, on David's return after striking down the Philistine, women came out from all the cities of Israel to meet Saul the king, singing and dancing, with tambourines, joyful songs, and stringed instruments. 7 The women played and sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, David his tens of thousands." 8 Saul was very angry and resentful of the song, for he thought: "They give David tens of thousands, but only thousands to me. All that remains for him is the kingship." 9 From that day on, Saul kept a jealous eye on David. 10 The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raged in his house. David was in attendance, playing the harp as at other times, while Saul was holding his spear. 11 Saul poised the spear, thinking, "I will nail David to the wall!" But twice David escaped him.

Optional Further Reading

a) Proverbs 27:4

4 One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek: To dwell in the LORD's house all the days of my life, To gaze on the LORD's beauty, to visit his temple.

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b) Ecclesiastes 4:4

4 Then I saw that all toil and skillful work is the rivalry of one person with another. This also is vanity and a chase after wind.

c) Genesis 37:3-4

3 Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons, for he was the child of his old age; and he had made him a long ornamented tunic. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him best of all his brothers, they hated him so much that they could not say a kind word to him.

d) Matthew 27:18

For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over.

e) 1 Timothy 6:3-5

3 Whoever teaches something different and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the religious teaching 4 is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid disposition for arguments and verbal disputes. From these come envy, rivalry, insults, evil suspicions, 5 and mutual friction among people with corrupted minds, who are deprived of the truth, supposing religion to be a means of gain.

SESSION 4 - DAY 2 - Engaging Your Envy

a) 1 Timothy 6:6-8

6^{*} Indeed, religion with contentment is a great gain.^e 7 For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it.^f 8 If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that.

b) 1 Corinthians 12:26

12 I mean that each of you is saying, "I belong to^{*} Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I give thanks [to God] that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. 16 (I baptized the household of Stephanas also; beyond that I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning. 18 The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside."¹ 20 Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? 21^{*} For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. 26 Consider your own

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calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

c) John 21:22

Jesus said to him, “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me.”

Question 3 Matthew 20:1-16

1 “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 Going out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4* and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ 5 So they went off. [And] he went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise. 6 Going out about five o’clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ 7 They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’ 8 When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’ 9 When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. 10 So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’ 13 He said to one of them in reply, ‘My friend, I am not cheating you.* Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? 15 [Or] am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?’ 16 Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Optional Further Reading

a) Titus 3:3-5

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, deluded, slaves to various desires and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful ourselves and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, 5 not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit,

b) 1 Corinthians 13:4

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I give thanks [to God] that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

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SESSION 4 - DAY 3 - Engaging Your Envy

a) Galatians 5:25-26

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.[†] 26 Let us not be conceited, provoking one another, envious of one another.

b) Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,

c) Romans 13:13

let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day,^{*} not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy.

d) Colossians 3:5, 12

5 Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly:[‡] immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry.

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,[‡]

Question 3 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, 5 it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, 6 it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Optional Further Reading

a) Philippians 2:3-5

3 Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, 4 each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others. 5 Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,

b) 1 Peter 2:1-3

1 Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, insincerity, envy, and all slander; 2 like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk so that through it you may grow into salvation, 3^b for you have tasted that the Lord is good.^{*}