



Series: Living Life Backward

Sermon: Part 3: "I Want What You Have!"

Date: Sunday, May 21st, 2023

Envy destroys our _____ because it makes our life look inferior compared to everybody else.

Jealousy: when I want something that is rightfully mine

Envy: when I want something, that is rightfully someone else's, for myself

The problem is actually with _____.

When a person lives their life apart from God, they will always be _____ at other things or people to try to satisfy themselves.

And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. (Ecclesiastes 4:4)

Toil: to work extremely hard or to work endlessly

When you live this way, there is no finish line. You will never be satisfied even if you end up getting everything that you want.

Fools fold their hands and ruin themselves. Better one handful with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind. (Ecclesiastes 4:5-6)

_____ means that you don't have to be grasping for more and more. You give your best and you are okay with what you have.

Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" (Ecclesiastes 4:7-8)

Questions to ask ourselves: "What am I doing all this for? Why am I working so hard and getting so stressed out all the time? Why am I envious of him or her? What is the lie that I am believing that makes me live and function this way?"



“This too is meaningless— a miserable business!” (Ecclesiastes 4:8)

If we don't have a standard that satisfies and tells us that we are okay then we will always be looking for the next thing to tell us that we are worthy and that we are okay.

If you can look to _____ as the standard to tell you that you are okay, you will never need to look to anything or anyone else to tell you that you are okay.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

“I'm going to look straight and fix my eyes on Jesus and on what He has to say about me. I'm going to run my own race as best as I can, and I'm going to run in my own lane.”

Regardless of what my performance is: I am a child of God, He loves me, and He approves of me.

Fighting Envy:

1. Make a daily declaration to yourself: “I am going to run my race. I am going to focus on my own race and not somebody else's race”

2. Practice being thankful

Bottom Line: *If you can look to God as the standard to tell you that you are okay, you will never need to look to anything or anyone else to tell you that you are okay.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. What have you been envious about lately?
2. What is the source of your envy? What are the standards that you look towards to tell you that you are okay?
3. What would it practically look like for you to put God as the standard that tells you that you are okay?

Songs used in service: Build My Life (Pat Barrett) Give Me Faith (Elevation Worship), It Is Well With My Soul (Horatio Spafford), Yes I Will (Vertical Worship)

-----Tear Here -----

Any prayer requests?

Name: _____ **Email (so we can follow up):** _____

What can we be praying for you about?