

# How to Be Free from Jealousy

08 - The Art of Rest  
Church on the Park | Sunday, 14 September 2014

**Text:** Luke 15:25-32; 1 Peter 2:1; James 3:13-18

**Theme:** Jealousy makes us restless, but the Scriptures teach us how we can be free from jealousy.

**Intro:** Since the beginning jealousy and envy have been a major issue with mankind. It causes unrest, making us 'storm out' of the Father's house just like the older brother in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. Today, I am going to teach you how you can be free from jealousy. Throughout the message we will be answering the question, "How do I remove jealousy from my life?" First, we will quickly touch on the problem of jealousy, and then for most of the message, we will look at the solution.

## The Problem

### 1) Jealousy causes unrest and leads to greater sins (Luke 15:25-30; Gen. 4:1-16)

- Last week we talked about the **prodigal son**, the prodigal father and the older brother. Let's look at this parable again (Luke 15:25-32).
- Why is the older brother **angry**? He's **jealous**
  - Why should my brother be celebrated after he's wasted all this money? What about me? I've lived right and you're not celebrating me?
- This jealousy **keeps** the older brother from **entering** the Father's house and sharing his joy (v. 28)
- Does this remind you of any other story in Scripture? A story with two brothers?
- While the stories are different, there are definitely a few similarities between the story of the Prodigal Son and **Cain and Abel** (Gen. 4:1-16).
  - Who's the older brother in the story? (Cain) Who's the younger? (Abel)
  - Cain gets angry at Abel because God liked Abel's offering, but not Cain's.
  - Consequently, Cain's **jealousy** causes him to **murder** Abel.
    - Jealousy always **leads** to worse sins. You may not murder someone with your hands, but instead damage them with your mouth. Like the older brother Jesus' parable, it may cause you to **leave** the Father's house, the **church**. Jealousy causes you to **stop loving** (1 Cor. 13:4).
  - What's the result of Cain's jealousy?
    - In the end, he becomes a **restless wanderer** and is **cast out** of the Lord's **presence**
    - Only in the Lord's presence is true **rest**, so if Cain is cast out of the Lord's presence he becomes **restless**.
    - Jealousy leads to **restlessness**. That's why we need to get **rid** of it to enter God's rest, the Father's embrace.
- This week I bought 3 chocolate bars for the kids and I thought that would make them happy—actually it made them all upset.
  - Things, money and even people, in and of themselves, don't make us **happy**. It's how we **respond** to them.

## The Solution

### 2) There are three specific revelations that will set you free from jealousy.

- They are all found in the father's response to his older son in the Prodigal Son parable (Luke 15:31-32).

#### 1) Know who you are (Luke 15:31)

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- **“My son”**
- You are a son of God. You are a daughter of God. You are born of God. (1 John 3:1-3)
- As a son or daughter of the King of kings you are in the most **privileged position** of anyone on earth (**Eph. 1:3-10, 2:6-10**).
- You are **God’s masterpiece**
- You do not need to **compare** yourself to others. Comparison **kills** and leads to jealousy. (2 Cor. 10:12)
- God makes every single one of his children **unique**. He makes **no copies**.
  - Our church is not meant to look like a mega-church. Your life is not meant to be like Bill Gates. You’re not meant to be Todd White or Darlene Zschech. You are called to be **yourself** in Jesus. You will have your **own** story, your own trials, your own triumph, your own strengths, your own struggles.
- Notice how Jesus responds to **Peter** when he starts to **compare** himself to John in John 21:17-23
- This comes by **revelation**...Ephesians 1:15-23
- *Why be jealous when you are a son or daughter of God?*

## 2) Know who your Father is (Luke 15:31)

- **“The Father”** (Eph. 3:14-21)
- You have the **creator** of the universe as your friend. You have the **Almighty** on your side.
- You have **full access** to God. Each person has as much of the Father as they **desire**.
- Your Father knows what’s **best** for you. He has no **spoiled** children.
- Everything you go through is for a **higher purpose**.
- He is **always with** you. “I am always with you.” God’s **presence** is yours. (Matt. 28:20)
- He knows. He sees. He cares. He’s working on your behalf.
- Life is all about getting to **know** your heavenly Father more. This is why we read God’s Word—to know the Father. The more we know him, the more rest comes to our souls (2 Cor. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:3, etc.).
- *Why be jealous when you have the best Father in the world?*

## 3) Know that everything the Father has is yours

- Your heavenly Father has given you the **keys** to his house. And guess what? It’s a **mansion**.
- His house is so **big**, that in order for you to know what’s in it, he has given you a **map/floor plan/layout**—it’s the Scripture
- Every **promise** is yours. Every **good thing** is yours (2 Peter. 1:3-4).
- Why don’t you have everything all at **once**. Because the Father has no **spoiled** children. (**\*Prov. 20:21, “gained hastily”**)
- Remember, very soon, in a blink of an eye, you will **inherit** the **earth**. Everything will be yours in Jesus. (1 Cor. 3:21-23)
- *Why be jealous when everything the Father has is yours also?*

**Conclusion:** Jealousy robs us of rest. It leads to inner turmoil and greater sins. The way to remove the obstacle of jealousy is by knowing the heavenly Father, knowing who you are as his son/daughter and knowing that everything the Father has is yours. He has given you his presence and all his promises.

## END NOTES

**2205. ζήλος *zēlos***; gen. *zēlou*, masc. noun from *zēō* (2204), **to be hot, fervent**. Zeal, used in a **good sense** (John 2:17; Rom. 10:2; 2 Cor. 7:7, 11; 11:2; Col. 4:13; Sept.: Ps. 69:9; 119:139) and more often in an **evil sense**, meaning envy, jealousy, anger (Acts 5:17; 13:45; Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 3:3; Gal. 5:20; Phil. 3:6; Heb. 10:27, “fiery wrath” [a.t.]; James 3:14, 16; Sept.: Zeph. 1:18; 3:8). Unlike *phthónos* (5355), envy, when used in a good sense, *zēlos* signifies the honorable emulation with the consequent imitation of that which presents itself to the mind’s eye as excellent. According to Aristotle, *zēlos* grieves, not because another has the good, but that he himself does not have it and seeks to supply the deficiency in himself. **However, *zēlos* may degenerate into a jealousy which makes war upon the good it sees in another, thus troubling that good and diminishing it. This is why we find *zēlos* joined together with *éris* (2054), contention (Rom. 13:13; 2 Cor. 12:20; Gal. 5:20).**

**Deriv.:** *zēlóō* (2206), to be zealous or jealous.

**Syn.:** *spoudé* (4710), diligence, forwardness; *prothumía* (4288), alacrity, readiness of mind; *órexis* (3715), excitement of the mind, a longing after;

**Ant.:** *pórosis* (4457), hardness, callousness; *psúchos* (5592), cold.

**5355. φθόνος *phthónos***; gen. *phthónou*, masc. noun. **Envy, jealousy, pain felt and malignity conceived at the sight of excellence or happiness** (Matt. 27:18; Mark 15:10; Rom. 1:29; Phil. 1:15; 1 Tim. 6:4; Titus 3:3; James 4:5). Pl. *phthónoi*, envyings, bursts of envy (Gal. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:1). *Phthónos*, unlike *zēlos* (2205), zeal, is incapable of good and always is used with an evil meaning.

**Deriv.:** *phthonéō* (5354), to envy.

**Ant.:** *chará* (5479), joy, delight.