

Dreamcoat Part 2: The Green Giant 10.23.11

Scripture: **Genesis 37:18-28 NIV**

Intro: Today we continue our new Dreamcoat series with part 2. We are calling it the GREEN GIANT because when jealousy, covetousness and/or envy enters our life - it really does become a giant! We can't see anything else. We focus on what we don't have or what we are afraid of losing - and we LOSE OUR JOY! I want to discuss with you 6 things that happen to us when this Green Giant gets in our way. **Take out Bibles!**

But 1st! Let's talk about the difference between jealousy, coveting, envy.

Jealousy - the fear of losing something that already belongs to you.

Coveting - the desire for something not yours and not attainable.

Envy - Coveting PLUS hatred or ill will toward someone who possesses it.

Regardless of how you define it, when this ugly green giant comes into our lives, it can be devastating. Here's our game plan today. I'd like to tell you about the six results of envy in our lives. Then I'd like to show you a short video that will make this really clear. Finally, I'd like to invite Randy Craig up to share his own personal story of envy. Sound good?

Six Results of Envy

#1 - Envy causes me to BREAK GOD'S COMMANDMENT.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbors." Exodus 20:17 ESV

Sometimes we make this more complicated than it needs to be. God warned us against coveting when He gave us the Ten Commandments. That's right! Wanting what someone else has that does not belong to you is a sin. And not just any ole' sin. It's one of the BIG TEN! God didn't call these the 10 suggestions! They are commandments for a reason. To break one of these breaks our fellowship with God and with one another. Notice how wide-ranging this command is: wife, servant, ox, donkey (car) or ANYTHING ELSE! **Why so all encompassing? We see it in our study of Joseph and his brothers...**

#2 - Envy causes me to BREAK OTHER COMMANDMENTS.

"Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." Genesis 37:20 ESV

When we are filled with envy and covetousness for someone else's belongings - no matter whether person, business, possession - it separates us from living in a way that pleases God. That means breaking other commandments too. When we envy, clearly we have another god before us and we worship the wrong things. We might murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness - do almost anything to get what we want when we can't have it.

Example of Joseph's brothers - kill him / throw him into cistern / lie about what happened to him. **Envy is the ultimate gateway sin!**

#3 - Envy causes me to DO STUPID THINGS.

"Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and let not our hand be upon him; for, he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers listened to him."
Genesis 37:27 ESV

Let's talk straight for a minute. It's bad enough that we break God's commandments, but often envy leads to stupidity!!! A caravan of foreigners comes by? "Oh... I know... let's sell our brother!" Yeah, brilliant! His brothers agreed. Somehow when stupidity is shared it doesn't feel so bad at the moment, but just as stupid.

Have you ever known anyone... or maybe you could admit this about yourself... that had things really good. Your blessings are amazing. But your thoughts are focused on what you don't have instead of what you do have? As a result you do stupid things? I'm convinced that Satan has a whole division that does nothing but laugh at our stupidity when we become **green with envy**. There's a reason why it's called "green with envy." Because it's really sick!

#4 - Envy causes me to LOSE WHAT I DO HAVE.

"When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes and returned to his brothers and said, 'The boy is gone! And I, where shall I go?'" Genesis 37:29-30 ESV

Here we begin to see why it's so sick, and why the demons laugh so hard at us... because envy causes us to lose the good things we do have.. Reuben was the big brother here. He strategized to save Joseph later (v. 22). Sounds good. What Reuben should have said was, "**NO!**" Important lesson - when it comes to evil there is not coddling it or getting along with it or trying to look good with it. Sometimes we just have to say, "NO!" Reuben knew it was wrong, but tried to save face with his brothers and provide a little humiliation to Joseph. As a result he lost his brother!

Envy causes us to be a LOSE - LOSE person. Not only do we not gain anything with envy, but we lose what we do have. And like Reuben we'll wake up with nothing some day and say, "Where can I turn now?"

#5 - Envy causes me to HURT THOSE CLOSEST TO ME.

"Then Jacob tore his garments, put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days." Genesis 37:34 ESV

#3 and #4 now come home to roost. Consider the irony that the brothers were jealous - thinking they had lost the love of their father - and envious - thinking they deserved to have the same love from their father Joseph possessed. Ultimately this is all about father's love, right? Yet the one they hurt the most by this was their father Jacob.

Envy is like that. It starts within us and if we allow it, will destroy us from the inside out. Envy doesn't stop there. It will go on to destroy everything else that's dear to us too! (Any wonder it's in the Big 10?)

Envy however is not finished with only 5. It results in one more...

#6 - Envy causes me to LOSE SIGHT OF CHRIST.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for he [God] has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"
Hebrews 13:5 ESV

Ultimately envy just doesn't destroy me and rob me of my relationship here on earth, it robs me of the joy I have with Christ too! That's why the writer to Hebrews tells us to keep our lives free from the love of money, because the love... the passion... the desire for worldly wealth takes away our contentment. There's no such thing as "enough." There's only "more."

Jesus those is always "enough." He will never leave us. He will never forsake us. But that doesn't mean we'll always know he's there. Sometimes our envy BLINDS us. All we can see is what we don't have rather than all the good things we do have.

You know how sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words? I think this video paints the picture of losing sight of Christ better than I can tell it. Take a look...

Play Video: "More Coke" by One Time Blind [2:05]

Teaching moments:

- a. Laura is thrilled with her gift from Jesus when she first gets it. Up until the next moment everything is about the gift and Jesus and Laura. That's the way it should be. The problem comes in when...
- b. Laura shifts her focus away from her gift and away from Jesus and sees only what someone else has that she doesn't - that's coveting.
- c. Laura asks for more and gets more (Notice that Jesus went to get the larger Coke.) By then, though, it didn't matter because both her friends now had even more. More is never enough!
- d. Laura turns her coveting into envy and directs her angry emotions directly toward Jesus. Notice how the other two backed away? It's never a pretty sight when our envy reaches it's ultimate place: God!
- e. The final picture of the little can of Coke being the biggest thing seen in the picture. What is any possession compared to Christ? Nothing more than a little can of Coke. The question comes down to our focus.

Introduce Randy Craig. This past Wednesday I had lunch with Randy. Before we even talked about today's sermon, he told me his own story of envy in business. I couldn't believe how perfect God's timing was. I asked Randy if he'd take 10 minutes and tell you the story he told me...

Randy speaks on his struggles with envy.

Conclusion: Take a minute and think about that little can of Coke in the video. That's the size of anything that becomes something you covet in your life. Envy is one of the most destructive emotions on Planet Earth. You may think it's hatred (and you may be right), but envy often gets us there. Don't let envy destroy you, your own dreams, your family, or your relationship with Christ. **Let's pray together!**