

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 01/29/2012

Title: "The Senselessness of Worry and Envy"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him"

Text: Psalm 37
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

Worry and envy are evil twin sisters. Worry is the passive sister. It's unhappy with circumstances/people and it's afraid. Envy is the aggressive sister. It's unhappy with circ/people and it's angry, resentful, bitter. Both themes are found in Psalm 37:1-8, and in Psalm 73:3-13.

1. The Command to Flee Worry and Envy

- Envy has many faces and God is against them all. Some struggle with envying the world, others envy other Christians. Envy is not partial; it will lock on to anyone and anything that seems better.
- Envy has two major ingredients: desire + resentment. The admiration of something good is not wrong.
- The opposite of envy is Rom 12:15 "rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep." Envy flips Rom 12:15 around – it rejoices when those we resent are weeping. It weeps when those we resent are rejoicing.
- Few think they struggle with envy because it is the air we breathe, no one catches you envying. Money, success, education, athletics, clothes, marriage, health, accomplishments. It lives in the business world, home-schooling community, neighborhood, academia, etc. Facebook doesn't help.
- Tim Keller: Envy has a stigma of enormous pettiness. No one confesses the sin of envy, specially not to the person they're envying. To confess would make us feel so petty, so small. It's actually proving that the other person is better, stronger, more confident, more successful.
- Gen. 3:5; Ps. 106; Ecc. 4:4; Mt. 27; Mk. 15; Ro. 1; Gal. 5; 1 Cor. 13; Tit. 3; 1 Pet. 2:1.

2. The Rationale for Fighting Worry and Envy

- **They compound sin:** They lead to evil Ps. 37:8; 73:2-3, 16. Envy is easily justified and uniquely discrete, but it is a deadly cancer. Envy is part of a tangled web of sins. It involves discontentment, grumbling, anger, resentment, bitterness; it is unloving; It questions God's goodness or his vigilance or his justice or his care or his involvement.
- **Injustice will come to an end:** Ps. 37:9-16; 73:16. Every injustice is a temporary injustice. Every inequity is a temporary inequity.
- **The Lord is faithful:** Ps. 37:5-6, 11, 22-24, 28, 29-40.

3. The Alternative to Worry and Envy

- **Do good:** Do Good. Ps. 3, 5, 27, 16; 1 Th. 4:11
- **Delight yourself in the Lord:** This command requires thought, emotion, work. Ps. 16:11; 34:8; 36:8; 43:4; 73:26; 90:14
- **Trust Him:** Ps. 37:3, 5. Trust his gospel. Our hope is in the one person who never envied – Jesus! This is the only hope for us broken, small, self-deceived enviers. Ponder what we really deserve! That's what envy is all about – give me my due! But we don't want what we deserve.
- **Wait for Him:** Ps. 37:7, 34

Sample Questions

- Can you relate with Ryan's confession that envy is more subtle and more present than we might expect? How?
- Ryan said envy has two main ingredients, desire and resentment. Is desire or admiration bad? How does it lead to resentment? What verse did Ryan mention that pictures and commands the exact opposite of envy?
- When you think about your thoughts in a day, what is your heart envying after, who is your heart envying? (See lists above). Do you envy the world, or other Christians? How have you seen envy hurt a relationship, a marriage, a family?
- In what ways does the reality of the gospel of Jesus Christ address our problem with envy?