AN ENEMY OF THE HEART: JEALOUSY

GENESIS 37:1-35

INTRODUCTION:

A. One of the things we sometimes see this time of year is an enemy of our heart called jealousy.
B. We see this in kids and adults alike after they discover someone else has a better gift than them.
C. As Christians, we are to put away all envy (1 Pet. 2:1) because those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21). And yet, for many of us, this is a huge battle.

JEALOUSY STARTS WHEN WE DESIRE WHAT OTHERS HAVE (GEN. 37:1-4).

A. Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons (Gen. 37:3; 30:22-24).
B. Israel didn’t hide his love and favoritism for Joseph (Gen. 37:2, 4; 34:18-31).
C. Joseph’s brothers wanted what he had; they wanted their father’s love and acceptance.
D. What in our lives breeds envy in our hearts (money, possessions, looks, relationships, skills set)?

JEALOUSY DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS (GEN. 37:4-11).

A. Joseph’s brothers hated him and could not speak peacefully to him (Gen. 37:4; 8).
B. When we begin to feel envious of someone else, our relationship will never be the same.
C. Nothing good ever comes from jealousy.

JEALOUSY LEADS TO BAD DECISIONS (GEN. 37:12-28).

A. Notice that Joseph is not with his brothers out in the field pasturing their father’s flock.
B. The brother’s jealousy was out of control. They wanted to kill their younger brother.
C. The brothers threw Joseph in a pit and left him for dead, even ignoring his cries for help (Gen. 42:21). Eventually, Joseph was sold for 20 shekels of silver (Lev. 27:5).
D. Holding envy in our hearts will lead to bad decisions in our lives (Prov. 6:34).


A. Rebuen tore his clothes which was a sign of anguish and mourning.
B. Israel would go to the grave in mourning (Gen. 42:36).
C. Our jealousy has an effect on all parties involved.

CONCLUSION:

A. God sent His only son to die so that we might live. We have no reason to be jealous of anyone else.
B. May we rid our hearts of jealousy, and instead, place our focus on Jesus and all He did for us.