

Remnant Life Church
June 22, 2014

“Defeating the Green-Eyed Monster”
Daniel 6

- Looked at 3 very destructive emotions:
 - Worry (anxiety)
 - Anger
 - Today – jealousy
- Remember that it is not the emotion itself that is destructive but our behavior when dealing with it
- Jealousy definition: an unhappy or angry feeling of wanting to have what someone else has; an unhappy or angry feeling caused by the belief that someone you love or like very much likes or is loved by someone else.
 - *For jealousy arouses a man’s fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. He will not accept any compensation... (Prov 6:34-35a)*
 - *...who can stand before jealousy? (Prov 24:7)*
- Envy is just simply wanting what someone else has but does not carry with it the same measure or intensity of emotion with it
- Jealousy can be a true killer
 - A killer of relationships
 - A killer of your joy
 - A killer of your health (emotionally and physically)
 - A killer of your church
- Daniel’s account is not unlike what still stokes the fire of jealousy today
 - He was favored
 - He was not a part of the “in crowd”
 - He was very good at what he did
- Daniel had been doing what he did for a long time
 - It began when he and his friends were captured by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar (*Dan. 1*)
 - Even at that early time Daniel is a man of integrity and is recognized for his good work and abilities in the 44 years of his reign (*Dan. 2-4*)
 - Daniel continues for another 22 years to be of great value to the next king, Belshazzar (who served with his father Nabonidus as co-regents)
 - The next ruler, Darius (most likely Cyrus according to historical documents - Persian) also counted on Daniel
 - It was God’s favor that allowed him to still be so sharp and wise at the age of 80+
- Note: not every negative or difficult situation should be viewed as a failure or a victory for Satan in our lives
 - Daniel’s life was filled with difficult events but his refusal to compromise allowed God to continue to use him wherever he was AND prosper in the midst of it
 - Similar life to that of Joseph (*Gen 37-50*)
- The problem for Daniel begins in this account in what we read in verses 3-4

- *Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. (Dan 6:3-4)*
- Success, promotion, notoriety (fame) all carry with them potentially great struggles particularly among those closest to you
 - “you find out who your true friends are”
 - Your life, in the very good and the very bad, will evoke strong emotions in others toward you – and they will not always be positive ones
 - Daniel had to deal with the fact that he was, for his entire adult life, a foreigner in his “home” land
- These were dark days for the nation of Israel
 - Through constant disobedience God allowed them to be invaded twice and people taken out of their land (605 BC); 8 years later it would happen again (597 BC)
 - For the next 70 years they would, as a nation, remain in Babylon (time for that generation to die out similar to Israel wandering in the desert?)
 - But God had a plan of redemption already in place which Jeremiah had prophesied years prior (Jer. 30)
 - He had a plan for the nation of Israel in Egypt
 - He had a plan for the nation of Israel in Babylon
 - He had a plan for humanity bound in sin (Gen 3:15)
- Daniel was, to some measure, accepted, admired, and appreciated by the people of that land yet he never compromised how he lived
 - Daniel’s life should be a 21st century blueprint for our lives today
 - Christians are a foreign people in their own land
 - We are called foreigners and strangers on earth (Heb 11:13)
 - The focus, the accepted, and much of what is being forced upon is contrary to the teaching of the Bible
 - Like Daniel, we need to stand firm not only in our beliefs, but in the actions of our lives (Eph 6)
- Jealousy is what put Daniel in the lion’s den
 - Babylon had been captured by the Persians (today Iraq and Iran)
 - Normally all of the old kingdom’s leaders would be killed but Daniel was spared and even elevated to a greater position of authority
 - Darius’ advisors and leaders were threatened by someone from the old regime AND he was a foreigner – even after 66 years of faithful service
 - Daniel’s greatest threat to them however was not his history with Babylon or his heritage – it was the presence of God in his life
 - When we stand firm with Jesus Christ today we will raise animosity in the people around us who come under conviction

- **How do we defeat jealousy in our own lives?**
 1. When you recognize them admit to their presence and immediately give them over to God
 - a. As with every emotion we ALWAYS have a choice to whether we will give in to them or not
 - b. Admitting that it is present is the first best step to not allowing it to take root in your heart
 - c. Much of the Psalms is David confessing to God his struggles with circumstances and his emotions
 2. Physically draw closer to the source of the jealousy
 - a. This emotion is very often directed at someone close to you
 - b. Positive example - David and Jonathan (**I Sam 18:1-4**)
 - c. Negative example - Saul and David (**I Sam 18**)
 - d. Jealousy will quickly lose its power when we draw close to the person we are jealous of
 - i. This is not easy initially
 - ii. The effects will be almost immediate
 - e. The choice to love and respect will always defeat jealousy
 3. Recognize, embrace and celebrate the fact that God has a plan just for you
 - a. Comparison is the father of jealousy
 - b. “Why” becomes the root of the thinking
 - i. Why don’t I have that?
 - ii. Why can’t I do that?
 - iii. Joseph was sold into slavery because of jealousy as his brothers asked why they did not have the love from their father that their brother did
 - c. God will, if we give ourselves over to Him, guide and direct us in His will for our lives and it will be unique to each of us.
 - d. Satan wants us to compare ourselves to others because our flesh nature will desire to “win”
 - e. *Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.* (**Prov 18:12**)
 - f. Jealousy and humility cannot exist together
 4. In that humility we must ask God’s help in defeating the jealousy
 - a. It is not an easy task
 - b. That person may, in your opinion, not have the skills that you do
 - c. Perhaps they, in your opinion, don’t deserve what they have received
 - d. “It’s not fair!”
 - We all want to make a difference and have our lives mean something
 - Satan knows this and wants that to become our driving force rather than making ourselves available to God’s will

- If we will can come to the place of trusting God with our lives He will lead and guide us
- Jealousy is about self-love
 - It feeds on suspicion and turns quickly into anger
 - It is also self-feeding and grows in on itself
 - It is a venom and a poison that will smother the love out of us unless...
 - ...we make the choice to surrender our emotions and our lives to the will of God and in every situation desire to show His love.
 - That is how we can defeat the green-eyed monster