

A HORSE THE DEVIL LIKES TO RIDE

TEXT: (Proverbs 27:3, NIV)

⁴ Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

INTRODUCTION

1. “Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail” (Acts 5:17-18, NIV).
2. “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him” (Acts 13:44-45, NIV).
3. “Now the practices of the sinful nature are *clearly* evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and *other* things like these” (Galatians 5:19-21, AMP).

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF JEALOUSY

A. Jealousy Cannot Stand It When Others Are Doing Better

1. “When Isaac planted his crops that year, he harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, for the LORD blessed him. He became a very rich man, and his wealth continued to grow” (Genesis 26:12-13, NLT).
2. “He acquired so many flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and servants that the Philistines became jealous of him. So the Philistines filled up all of Isaac’s wells with dirt. These were the wells that had been dug by the servants of his father, Abraham” (Genesis 26:14-15, NLT).
3. “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back” (Luke 6:38, NLT).

B. Jealousy Makes You Hostile Towards Those Who Have Never Harmed You

1. “Finally, Abimelech ordered Isaac to leave the country. ‘Go somewhere else,’ he said, ‘for you have become too powerful for us’” (Genesis 26:16, NLT).

C. Jealousy Is Cruel

1. “His brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than all of his brothers; so they hated him and could not [find it within themselves to] speak to him on friendly terms” (Genesis 37:4, AMP).
2. “‘Here comes that dreamer!’ they said to each other. ‘Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams’” (Genesis 37:19-20, NIV).
3. “When Joseph reached his brothers, they ripped off the fancy coat he was wearing, grabbed him, and threw him into a cistern. ... Then they sat down to eat their supper” (Genesis 37:23-25, MSG).

4. “Then they got Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, ‘We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe.’

He recognized it and said, ‘It is my son’s robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces.’

Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. ‘No,’ he said, ‘I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave.’ So his father wept for him” (Genesis 37:31-35, NIV).

5. “Speaking among themselves, they said, ‘Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn’t listen. That’s why we’re in this trouble.’

‘Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy?’ Reuben asked. ‘But you wouldn’t listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!’” (Genesis 42:21-22, NLT).

D. Jealousy Fails to Recognize That God Knows What He’s Doing in Apportioning Gifts

1. “A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men” (Proverbs 18:16, KJV).
2. “Who in the world do you think you are to second-guess God? Do you for one moment suppose any of us knows enough to call God into question? Clay doesn’t talk back to the fingers that mold it, saying, “Why did you shape me like this?” Isn’t it obvious that a potter has a perfect right to shape one lump of clay into a vase for holding flowers and another into a pot for cooking beans?” (Romans 9:20-21, MSG).
3. “He alone decides which gift each person should have” (I Corinthians 12:11, NLT).

II. CONSEQUENCES OF JEALOUSY

A. Jealousy Is Like Cancer

1. “A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones” (Proverbs 14:30, NLT).
2. “Don’t you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough?” (I Corinthians 5:6, NLT).

B. Jealousy Gives Birth to Unwarranted Suspicion and Anger

1. “When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song: Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!” (1 Samuel 18:6-9, NLT).
2. “David said to Abishai, ‘Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless? As surely as the LORD lives,’ he said, ‘the LORD himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go’ (I Samuel 26:9-11, NIV).

C. Jealousy Breeds a Destructive Critical Spirit

1. "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" (Daniel 6:3-4, NIV).

D. Jealousy Will Ruin Your Spiritual Appetite

1. "So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness" (1 Peter 2:1-3, NLT).

III. CURE FOR JEALOUSY

A. Recognize jealousy as sin.

1. "When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21, NLT).

B. Confront Yourself

1. "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer" (Psalm 32:3-4, NIV).
2. "Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!'" (II Samuel 12:7, NIV).
3. "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin" (Psalm 32:5, NIV).

C. Learn to Trust People by Trusting God

1. "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).
2. "The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand" (Psalm 37:23-24, NLT).
3. "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed" (Psalm 37:25-26, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Do not envy the wicked, do not desire their company" (Proverbs 24:1, NIV)
2. "For their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about making trouble" (Proverbs 24:2, NIV).
3. "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14, NIV).
4. "To present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless" (Ephesians 5:27, NIV).