**ENVY**

**Envy** is yet again one of the Seven Deadly sins that has Pride as a root. Although in the course of human history we have seen the evils of systems that force people to remain in a particular state or class, some of the most remarkable testimonies of Faith are written by people who saw no way out of their situation, but nonetheless attempted to find Jesus in every element of their life. Those who have spent much of their time looking at others’ successes, blessings, good fortunes, and circumstances in life and then wallowing in anger and self-pity related to their own lives usually lack joy. This is not meant to be an unkind analysis, but rather, for the Christian, we are bidden to give thanks in all circumstances.

Life is often very unfair, and human beings can make very bad choices which require them to live out the consequences of their choices. We often look at our lives as they are today, and then we compare where we are to what we had hoped our lives would be. Sometimes this produces depression, sadness, and anger. We can easily, then, look at others who lives seem to be so much better than ours and wonder why we don’t have what they have. This wonder may even drive us to resentment and anger, as we ask, “Why do they have everything and I have nothing?” In our worst moments we even feel as if God has blessed people who don’t deserve it and ask, “Why has He withheld His blessing from me?” Many circumstances in life have no logical answers, and even if there is some form of an answer, for those who are consumed with envy, the answer is never good enough. However, in the lives of so many broken people we see Jesus carrying the Cross with them and reaching out to the broken with His consoling love. Likewise, we can sometimes see in the lives of those who seem to have the perfect life an emptiness and a lack of joy. As the old adage goes: No Jesus - No Joy. Know Jesus - Know Joy. Joy is a good antidote for envy as we awaken each day and look for at least one blessing God has given us. In fact, the word JOY is the correct ordering of our lives: Jesus. Others. You. If we place Jesus first, others second, and ourselves third, we will discover that God has given us gifts and grace that are unique. Indeed, others may have more, but Jesus through His gift of the Beatitudes gives us an ordering to our lives that will allow us to overcome envy by putting our lives into His hands - the same Hands that will lead us to Heaven.