

Joshua – Lesson 40: Success – Succeeding where others fail (Without Envy)
Joshua 14

Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 39 (Succeeding where others fail)

1. According to Matthew 25:21, what is the reward to the good and faithful servant?

Answer: I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

2. According to Matthew 13:22, what is the impact when a believer yields to the cares of the world?

Answer: He becometh unfruitful.

3. According to Joshua 14:12, who must Caleb drive out from his inheritance?

Answer: The Anakims.

4. According to 1 Kings 11:11, what did God judge against Solomon for his disobedience?

Answer: I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

5. Complete the following scripture:

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with all thy **heart**, and with all thy **soul**, and with all thy **mind**.

True / False

True The children of Israel lost 14,000 to plague in the wilderness on God's judgement. (NUM 16:49)

True The children of Israel were attacked by fiery serpents in the wilderness on God's judgement. (NUM 21:6)

True The believer is expected to produce fruit. (MATT 13:23)

False Solomon remained perfect in heart all his life. (1 KINGS 11:4)

Lesson 40: Without envy

"I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions." — Dan Siegel

- Good things and bad things happen to us all. It is the choices we make, not those events, that define us.
- Recognizing that your source of happiness cannot reside in another person – It is your responsibility
- The believer can choose not to envy, as the Spirit of God is within (you just have to allow the Spirit to provide the peace of God).

"I yam what I yam." – Popeye the Sailor (Elsie Segar – 1928)

- Embodying wisdom and understanding – Secure in who you are, and not basing your identity on others.
- The believer can use the Spirit of God to withstand the 'identity of the world', as pressure is continually applied to influence the believer to assimilate into the world.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Caleb's character of submission is an example to the children of Israel – and to all the children of God.

Joshua 14:6 – Caleb's submission defined

(6) Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea..

We have seen in Numbers 13, at Kadesh-Barnea, how Caleb took the lead in encouraging the children of Israel in continuing in the strength of faith to possess the inheritance - his faith in God never wavered.

Now, at Gilgal, Caleb reminds Joshua of the promise of God:

Numbers 14:24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

What is not said, is how, from that time of the return of the mission to survey the land to this moment 45 years later, how Caleb never challenged Joshua's position, never questioned his leadership, never showed signs of envy, jealousy, or dissatisfaction, and never was the instigator of discord.

Was it because of his love for Joshua, or his faith in God, that, through Joshua (chosen by God to lead the children of Israel – JOS 1:1-9)?

Caleb submitted to the will of God and was content in knowing God is true to His word, regardless of how things appeared.

How do we know envy was not in Caleb's heart?

James 3:16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work

- The need to have what others have is a worldly condition – Not the wisdom of God
- This is the beginning of selfish ambition – not the desire to 'be about the Father's business'
- Dissatisfaction of the world fills the heart and creates envy – The tool of Satan to be a catalyst for chaos
- Envy is the start of every evil practice

Caleb never attempted to usurp Joshua's authority, never questioned the direction of God, never failed to follow as God guided the children of Israel into the Promised Land.

Envy is such a disruption to the relationship between humanity and God, that God provided specific guidance regarding this trait:

- **Exodus 20:17** Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's.
 - o As one of the Ten Commandments personally authored by God, envy (covetousness) represents a characteristic that God cannot tolerate.
 - o Several examples of the time are noted, but summarized as 'any thing' to ensure the message is understood that your goals, wants and needs cannot be based on the possessions of others.

An example of the power of envy is seen in **Mark 15:9-11**

- (9) But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?
(10) For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.
(11) But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them.

- Satan used the envy of the Pharisees (not able to accept Jesus Christ, and coveting of His ability to reach people on a spiritual level) to sentence Christ to death.

Note: Not all were consumed in envy – The examples of Nicodemus in John 3 (coming to Jesus for instruction) and John 19 (helping Joseph of Arimathea prepare Jesus' burial) are a testimony that some acted without envy (possibly even believed on the LORD), that envy is not assigned to a position, but to an individual (who has the power to eliminate envy by replacing it with satisfaction or contentment)

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

God tests the believer's devotion to Him by examining our reaction when others are blessed:

- If the believer is envious of another's success:
 - o The dissatisfaction will manifest itself in some discord (the relationship between the believers, the relationship about the 'successful one', and even acts of spitefulness)
 - o An obstacle between the believer and the LORD (the hardness of heart will allow the believer to suffer the consequences of dissatisfaction)

Faith is the leading indicator for God – Your faith will say more about you than any words

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 – Envy has no place in love

- (4) Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
(5) Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
(6) Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
(7) Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

- Love cannot endure envy: Discontent with another is the wedge Satan uses to counter love, and replace it with a hate that is often characterized as ambition, determination or drive (worldly terms used to disguise dissatisfaction – especially with regard to comparison with others).
- The believer is warned: Envy is grouped with a set of characteristics (such as short temper / impatience, pride, greed, and rudeness) that challenge love, and could possibly reveal a lack of love (the very foundation of God – 1 JOHN 4:8 God is love).
- The believer is encouraged that love 'beareth', 'believeth', 'hopeth', and 'endureth' – The characteristics of the Father to the believer: To give the believer the strength (through the Spirit) to 'love thy neighbor' in spirit and in truth (fulfilling the law and the prophets – MATT 22:40).

Although Caleb's testimony is one who wholly followed God, the greater inheritance he offered his descendants was not in the land that he conquered through the strength of God, but in the example of faithfulness (commitment, conviction and without envy) that will be the true blessing.

The believer can succeed where others have failed by embodying the faithfulness of Caleb, that in the love of God, the believer can bear the burdens placed, wholly believe the testimony of Christ, hope for the promise of God, and endure all things in this world.

Next Lesson: Joshua – Success in God's eyes

Joshua – – Lesson 40: Success – Succeeding where others fail (Without Envy)

Study Questions

1. According to James 3:13, what two attributes accompany envy and strife?

1. _____ 2. _____

2. According to Exodus 20:17, what word summarize the commandment 'Thou shalt not covet'?

3. According to Mark 15:10, why did the high priests deliver Jesus Christ to Pilate?

4. According to 1 Corinthians 13:6, in what should a believer rejoice?

5. Complete the following scripture:

1 Corinthians 13:7 _____ all things, _____ all things,
_____ all things, _____ all things.

True / False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | The believer should seek to conform to the world. |
| T | F | Wisdom and understanding brings happiness. |
| T | F | Pilate attempted to release Jesus. |
| T | F | Pride has no place in love. |