



February 28, 2021

Proverbs 23:17–18(ESV)

¹⁷Let not your heart envy sinners,
but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day.
¹⁸Surely there is a future,
and your hope will not be cut off.

1 Samuel 18:8–9

And Saul was very angry, and this [praise of David] displeased him . . . And Saul eyed David from that day on.

Proverbs 14:30

A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh,
but envy makes the bones rot.

Matthew 27:18

For [Pilate] knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

James 3:16

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

INTRODUCTION:

1. See the beast

Proverbs 23:17

“Envy is resentful desires for what someone else has or is.” — Jared Wilson

- a. Who do I compare myself to? Why?
- b. Do I feel threatened by people with similar looks, abilities, families, or jobs?
- c. Is it difficult for me to celebrate the success of those I compare myself to?
- d. Do I experience *schadenfreude*? (German: pleasure obtained from another’s troubles)
- e. Am I nagged by constant feelings of discontentment?

2. Beware of the beast

- a. Beware of envy because it hides itself

“Most of us could still sleep decently if accused of anger, or pride, or lust, or even greed. But to be accused of envy would be by far the worst, so clearly does such an accusation go directly to character. The other sins . . . do not so thoroughly or deeply demean, diminish, and disqualify a person. But you see, the stigma of envy is its enormous pettiness.” — Joseph Epstein

- b. Beware of envy because it steals your joy

Proverbs 14:30

- c. Beware of envy because it spawns all kinds of other sins

Matthew 27:18

James 3:16

3. Kill the beast

Proverbs 23:18

- a. Repent and seek the mercy of God
- b. Fill your life with thanksgiving
- c. Pray for the person you are envious of
- d. Focus on the unique role God has given you in life
- e. Serve others
- f. Rejoice in the future God will give his people

Proverbs 23:17–18

Romans 8:32