

AT THE HEART OF ENVY

Breaking Free - Part 6

Genesis 37:3 “Now Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age.”

Genesis 37:4 “But his brothers hated Joseph because of their father's partiality. They couldn't say a kind word to him.”

Genesis 37:5-8 “One night Joseph had a dream and promptly reported the details to his brothers, causing them to hate him even more. ‘Listen to this dream,’ he [Joseph] announced. ‘We were out in the field tying up bundles of grain. My bundle stood up, and then your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before it!’ ‘So you are going to be our king, are you?’ his brothers taunted. And they hated him all the more for his dream and what he had said....”

Genesis 37:18 “When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance and made plans to kill him.”

Genesis 37:19 “‘Here comes that dreamer!’ they exclaimed.”

Genesis 37:23-24, 28 “So when Joseph arrived, they pulled off his beautiful robe and threw him into the pit... So when the traders came by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver, and the Ishmaelite traders took him along to Egypt.”

Genesis 37:31-33 “Then Joseph's brothers killed a goat and dipped the robe in its blood. They took the beautiful robe to their father and asked him to identify it. ‘We found this in the field,’ they told him. ‘It's Joseph's robe, isn't it?’ Their father recognized it at once. ‘Yes,’ he said, ‘it is my son's robe. A wild animal has attacked and eaten him. Surely Joseph has been torn in pieces!’”

Genesis 37:34-35 “He [Jacob] mourned deeply for his son for many days. His family all tried to comfort him, but it was no use. ‘I will die in mourning for my son,’ he would say, and then begin to weep.”

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (NLT) “Then I observed that most people are motivated to success by their envy of their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless, like chasing the wind.”

Romans 1:28-29 (NLT) “When they refused to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their evil minds and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, fighting, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.”

Titus 3:3 (NLT) “Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient...Our lives were full of evil and envy.”

To attack envy I must...

1. Acknowledge _____.

Proverbs 14:30 (NIV) “A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”

2. Apologize _____.

Colossians 2:13-14 (NCV) “When you were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self, God made you alive with Christ, and He forgave all our sins. He canceled the debt...He took away that record...and nailed it to the cross.”

3. Celebrate _____.

Luke 15:32 (NLT) “We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found.”