THE SIN OF JEALOUSY AND ENVY

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Why was James warning the rich and chastising them? It was because they were not ready to pay the just wage and were keeping their wealth to themselves. Maybe it was a way of protecting their standard and status so that others would not compete with them – jealousy in disguise?

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Jesus also told John: "There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us". He taught His disciples the reward of being generous.

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Why was James warning the rich and chastising them? It was because they were not ready to pay the just wage and were keeping their wealth to themselves. Maybe it was a way of protecting their standard and status so that others would not compete with them – jealousy in disguise?

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Jesus also told John: "There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us". He taught His disciples the reward of being generous.

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Envy and jealousy have led many people to commit murder, discriminate against others, tarnish the image of some people, and lied about others. For example, Cain killed his brother because his brother's sacrifice was accepted by God and not his (Gen.4:3-8). Miriam was jealous of her brother, Moses and she criticized him, and she became a leper (Nm.12:10). Jesus and the apostles were persecuted by the scribes and the Pharisees because of jealousy (Mt.27:18; Acts 4; 5; 13:45). They felt Jesus and the apostles were making their importance among the people less.

Similar events are what we heard about both in the first reading and the gospel. Joshua was jealous that Eldad and Medad had also received the Spirit of God. And John was not happy that someone was casting out demons in the name of Jesus. Each of them was trying to protect his status quo. They did not want others to be part of the privileges they were enjoying.

Why was James warning the rich and chastising them? It was because they were not ready to pay the just wage and were keeping their wealth to themselves. Maybe it was a way of protecting their standard and status so that others would not compete with them – jealousy in disguise?

Moses made it clear to Joshua that he wished that everybody would receive God's Spirit and would be prophets. In a way, he was expressing the mind of God. God's love is for everyone, no discrimination. It means also that God can use anybody to do His work. Each and everyone have a part to play in the salvation of souls.

Jesus also told John: "There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us". He taught His disciples the reward of being generous.

When I become jealous or envious of another, I am belittling myself and forgetting about my own importance and worth. I forget about my own goodness. It is self-defeating and it leads to negative thoughts.

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