

## UNTIL I ENTERED THE SANCTUARY

(Psalm 73:16-28; Job 42: 5, 6; Lamentations 3:20-23)

But as for me, my feet were almost gone, my steps had well-nigh slipped, **for I was envious** of the foolish and arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked (Psalm 73:2, 3).

Why is it that “the grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence”? Sometimes our hearts are so full of self-pity and wants that we become blind to the blessings before us; we keep looking instead, at someone’s success and desiring it, in the spirit of envy and jealousy, as the Psalmist described, But as for me, my feet were almost gone. . . for I was envious.. . **Until**, I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end (Psalm 73:17). In the presence of God the psalmist shows repentance through the words, For my heart was grieved, embittered, and in a state of ferment, and I was pricked in my heart, so foolish, stupid and brutish was I, and ignorant; I was like a beast before You (vs. 21-22).

The only way out of the spirit of envy is to be in the presence of the Lord, because His presence radiates holiness, conviction and contentment. When we, in His presence, “behold and gaze upon the beauty of the Lord” our hearts are touched with shame, embarrassment and guilt; but with repentance in our hearts, then forgiveness will flow from the beauty of His love; He will guide us out and will free us from the trap of envy. Contentment in the words of Paul is, Godliness accompanied with contentment is great and abundant gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and obviously we cannot take anything out of the world; for if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content (I Timothy 6:6-8). This is the perfect and sure way to keep the door closed to the spirit of envy and jealousy. Didn’t Yahshua tell us to seek His kingdom first? Didn’t He tell us to store treasures in heaven? If we are citizens of heaven, why are envying someone’s earthly treasures? “In everything give thanks for this is the will of God for you”. Where there is godliness, there there is contentment and from contentment springs forth thanksgiving from the heart of the one who accepts the sovereignty of God- **For this is the will of God for you.**

Envy and jealousy compelled Cain to kill his brother, Abel. Had he gone into the presence of the Lord, he would had repented of his evil ways of rebellion and his life would have had been different, so would have been the world of that time. In

First Kings twenty-one we read the story of King Ahab’s envy over Naboth’s vineyard, causing his death. Jealousy and envy of Joseph caused his brothers to sell him as slaves; Guided by the spirit of envy and jealousy, a person is turned into a murderer, as we see in every generation before us and in the generation of today. In Philippians 4:11-12 however, Paul teaches us the secret of contentment, he says, . . . **For I have learned how to be content in whatever state I am; I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want. In contentment rejoice with the fact that you are “citizens of the state which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await the Lord Jesus Christ, Savior, Who will transform and fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform to and be like the body of His glory and majesty, by exerting**

**that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself** (Philippians 3:20-21).

Yes, we are citizens of heaven; our treasure is in heaven where our hearts should be. Do you see a wicked person prospering? Know that his treasure has no power and prospers nothing in his life after death; he will take nothing with him when he dies. God promised to bless the righteous; God declares blessed the home of the righteous (Proverbs 3: 33), now and in eternity.

Remember godliness with contentment is of much gain; let the world worship things, but you, child of God, follow Him; empty yourself of worldly desires, for the gate to heaven is narrow and there are very few who will be able to pass through it. Apply contentment to your life today and be thankful for what you have in Christ, His heavenly riches are the only riches you can take with you.

THINK ABOUT IT!