

An Outline of John's Gospel

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - 1. Jesus' Arrest & Trials (18:1-19:16a)
 - 2. Jesus' Crucifixion & Burial (19:16b-42)
 - 3. Jesus' Resurrection & Appearances (20:1-29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

The Resurrection and our Envy

Gospel of John, Part LXXV

John 21:20-25

Stuart W. Bryan

- I. **A Farewell** (cf. 21:24-25)
- II. **The Transformative Resurrection**
- III. **What about this man?**

A. Peter's Question (20-21)

B. Jesus' Reply (22)

C. Varied Interpretations (23)

IV. How the Resurrection Transforms our Envy

A. Unbearable Inequality – “*What about this man?*” (Gen 30:1; 37:11; Mt 27:18)

While _____ desires to protect what is one's own; _____ longs to possess or destroy what is another's. Thus, *jealousy* is not inherently sinful, while *envy* is. *Envy* begrudges other people that which is lawfully theirs. Left unchecked, *envy* taints our fallen human hearts and destroys ourselves and others. Solomon declares that “...*envy is rottenness to the bones*” (Prov 14:30b).

Envy longs to possess or destroy what is another's. “*Envy thinks it would be better for no one to have [the coveted object or ability or characteristic] than for another person to have it...*” (Dillehay, 41). Consider the case of Solomon and the two prostitutes. As Harold G. Coffin writes, “*Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own.*”

B. Divine Providence – “*If I will...*” (Mt 20:1-16; 25:14-30)

Envy is driven by a hatred of, anger at _____. So Augustine writes, “[*Envy is*] dissatisfaction with our place in God's order of creation, manifested in begrudging his gifts to others.” Envy thrives on the inequality that exists in the world. And here's what really rubs us wrong: God doesn't apologize for these inequities; He created a world in which inequities abound. And God says, “*Isn't it great!*”

Recall that Jesus taught the multitudes with parables. We tend to think of Jesus' parables as helpful illustrations that made obscure things clear. But the only reason

we think that is because we have Jesus' explanations. Apart from His explanations, the parables were incredibly hard to understand. So why did He use them?

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand." (Mt 13:11-13)

Why did Jesus use parables? In part, to highlight the inequity of God's work in the world.

Christ likewise pokes at our envy in His parable of the workers in the vineyard. The owner of the vineyard paid all his workers a denarius even though some had worked longer than others. Those who worked all day complained, "*That's not fair! We worked all day and they only worked a couple hours!*" But the owner of the vineyard said, "*Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?*" (Mt 20:13-15)

C. Godly Contentment – "You follow Me!"

1. Believe the Gospel (2 Cor 4:16-18)

If God is ours through Christ, which He is, then why do we grope and pine for the transitory glories which God has given to our neighbor? We shall enjoy eternal glory, peace with God through Christ for all eternity.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2. Look to the Reward (cf. Col 3:23-25)

If you are in Christ, then God promises to reward you for your labor in this life. So stop worrying about what God hasn't given you and get to work with what He has given you. If you are but _____ with the gifts God gives you, then God will abundantly reward you.

3. Give Thanks Now (Pr 14:30; 1 Thes 5:18)

Solomon reminds us, "*A sound heart is life to the body, But _____ is rotteness to the bones*" (Prov 14:30). *Envy* is a destroyer; its only antidote is a "sound heart", a heart of *thankfulness*, a heart that overflows with gratitude to God. Paul summons us, "*in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*" (1 Thes 5:18).

V. Conclusion