

St. Paul's Notes

50 Days of God's Love

LOVE DOES NOT ENVY

Part 3 of 8

October 14, 2008

"Love does not envy." 1 Corinthians 13:4b

ENVY: Resenting God's goodness to others AND ignoring God's goodness to me

"Wherever there is envy... you'll find every kind of evil." James 3:16

THE ANTIDOTE FOR ENVY

Jesus' Story of the Vineyard Workers (Matt. 20)

1. STOP _____ YOURSELF TO OTHERS.

"Those hired last came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more." Matthew 20:9-10a (The Message)

2. START _____ GOD'S GRACE TO OTHERS.

"The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard... He said, 'Are you envious because I am generous to them?'" Matthew 20:10-11, 15b (CEV/NIV)

"Rejoice with those who rejoice!" Romans 12:15

3. BE GRATEFUL FOR _____

"Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from God? So what's the point of all this comparing and competing? You already have all you need!"

1 Corinthians 4:7b-8a (The Message)

"It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else." Ecclesiastes 6:9 (GN)

4. TRUST GOD WHEN _____

"These last workers put in only one easy hour, and yet you have made them equal to us – we who slaved all day under a scorching sun!" Matthew 20:12 (The Message)

The Owner: "Friends, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on... What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?" Matthew 20:13-15a (CEV)

5. KEEP FOCUSED ON _____ FOR YOU.

The Owner: "Take your money now and go!"

Matthew 20:14a (GW)

"Let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us." Hebrews 12:1 (LB)

"You saw me before I was born and scheduled every day of my life before I began to breathe." Psalm 139:15 (LB)

Jesus concluded:

"And so it is, that many who are first now will be last then and those who are last now will be first then... If you want to be great, you must become the servant of all the others."

Matthew 20:16 & 26 (NLT/CEV)