

Why Does Everyone Hate Tom Brady 1 Corinthians 13:4 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To discuss one practical way we can live lives of gratitude and contentment this week.

Sermon Refresher: There are people in our lives that we “hate” because of the successes they’ve had or the things they get to buy or the vacations they get to take. This envy springs from comparison and a lack of gratitude for what God has given us. As followers of Jesus we are called to love others but it’s virtually impossible for us to love others while we are envying them. The only solution to our envy problem is Jesus. Finding our satisfaction in Jesus and believing that he loves us and has our best in mind is what can enable us to love those we are tempted to envy.

Icebreaker: What is something you’ve received that you previously thought would bring you fulfillment but left you unsatisfied.

Discussion:

1. What are areas of ingratitude in your life that make you vulnerable to envy? Without naming names, who is the “Tom Brady” in your life? What is it that you envy?
2. 1 Corinthians 13:4 tells us that love “does not envy.” To say it another way, love and envy are mutually exclusive. Why do you think that is?
3. Proverbs 27:4 says: “Anger is cruel, and wrath is raging: but who can stand before envy?” What is it that makes envy so unbearable in relationships that we can more easily handle tolerate anger?

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4. If comparison is the root of envy, what do you think is the root of comparison? What causes us to compare what we have and what we've accomplished to what others have?
5. Often envy can grow from lies we believe about God. Which of the following lies do you struggle with most and how does it cause envy to grow in your life? Why is that particular lie the one that you struggle with the most?

God is not in control.

God doesn't love me as much as so-and-so.

God doesn't know what's best for me and my life.

God hasn't seen the sacrifices I've made for him and others.

6. Some of us may be familiar with this passage: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). We forget, however, that the context of this verse has to do with contentment in all circumstances. Read the previous verses:

Philippians 4:10

[10] I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. [11] Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

[12] I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

How can following Jesus help us experience contentment in this life and thus fight against envy in our lives?

7. What are some daily practices we could do that might help us follow Jesus and live lives of contentment and gratitude? List off as many as you can and then choose one to practice over the course of the next few weeks.

Sharing and Prayer:

Living lives of contentment, gratitude and love for others is difficult to do. Through praying prayers of thanks to God we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to live a life of gratitude, fight envy and to love others.

To close your discussion prayer this prayer by Scotty Smith in your group together. One suggestion is to divide up the prayer among the group members so everyone has a chance to read a section and lead the group in prayer.

"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
Lord Jesus, I don't want to be like 90% of the lepers you healed in the parable of the 10 lepers who failed to give you thanks for your lavish love. Though I am growing forgetful and may one day even forget me name, I pray I will **never** forget you or a single benefit that you so freely give me in the gospel.

Jesus, I praise you for forging **all** my sins-past, present and future-sins of word, thought, and deed. This is **staggering** to ponder. I used to think you only forgive confessed sins, but now I realize I'm maybe aware of 4% of the ways I actually sin against you every day. "Praise the Lord, O my soul for perfect and comprehensive once-and-for-all forgiveness!"

Jesus, I praise you for healing **all** my diseases-diseases in my body, heart and mind. Though I sometimes wish, whine, even demand, that you would completely heal me before you return to make all things new, nonetheless, I have this liberating hope-that the healing I am already receiving in the gospel one Day will be brought to completion! "Praise the Lord, O my soul for present, ongoing, and a secured complete healing!"

Jesus, I praise you for redeeming my life from **all** pits-the pit of eternal separation from God, the pits others throw me into, and the pits I foolish dig for myself! You have bought me out of all pits **into** your embrace, by taking the ultimate "pit" of God's judgment on the cross. "Praise the Lord, O my soul for redemption out of all pits, especially the pit of hell!"

Jesus, I praise you for crowing me with your love and compassion! You have taken away **all** of my guilt and you have born **all** of my shame and you have replaced them with your unwavering love and compassion. My conscience is no longer under the law and condemnation, but under the gospel! Praise the Lord, O my soul for a coronation of mercy and grace!"

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Jesus, I praise you for being committed to satisfying my desires with good things. Lord, I praise you for the smile of my grandson, the kiss of my wife, the taste of dark chocolate, the rainbow you painted on the side of a trout, encouragement from a friend, the sounds of great music... and on and on I could go numbering all the good things I take for granted, all of which come from your generous heart. "Praise the Lord, O my soul for a God who takes your desires seriously and satisfies them in countless ways!"

Jesus, may the unsearchable, innumerable and inexhaustible riches of the gospel renew me today with youth-like energy, today that I may soar like an eagle and live to the praise of your glorious grace!

Amen