

"#2: "ENVY!"

7 DEADLY SINS SERIES #2, GGSDA, 10/3/15

INTRO. A. Last Friday--I had to call my friend **ELDER RALPH WATTS**, who spoke here in April—said, "I can't talk right now, Dan—playing golf with my son on Maui!" Then he has to send me this picture. **Why does he have to send me this picture? ENVY.** I'm doing a wedding tomorrow. I ask the couples, **WHERE YOU GOING FOR YOUR HONEYMOON?" Hawaii. Gruise Greek islands. Tahiti—I pray for it to rain on them, hurricanes, typhoons. ENVY.** Someone took me to car show in Los Angeles—saw a **FERRARI** for the first time. Incredible. Thought—God should let me have one of those. Just once in my life. All I have to go through as a pastor, mission trips. Why should those people get it on—not me. One of our church members has one, \$250,000. Almost never drives it—might rain on it, sun on it, something. I saw a Ferrari this week, stuck in the same traffic I was in. Then I passed it. What good is it, go 220 MPH—going 5 mph same as me?! In Loma Linda for a big funeral—such an incredible church, my name was on the list for that many years ago. 6000 members. \$2 million for their sound system, lights, AV system. Middle of the funeral—whole sound system messed up, Pastor Randy Roberts running down the aisle, fix it. I loved it! I started doing evangelism around the world, small places, little basketball courts. Baptized few hundred. Then bigger, baptized 1400 one Sabbath afternoon. Then heard about someone else—baptized 3000. Then saw pictures of **MARK FINLEY IN AFRICA, NEW GUINEA, 30,000, 50,000.**

B. It's everywhere in the Bible. ENVY is where it all started, Lucifer, jealous of Jesus. CAIN jealous of ABEL. SAUL jealous of DAVID. David kills Goliath, big parade, all the girls singing, Saul kills his thousands, David kills ten thousands. **DANIEL--#number 2 in the Kingdom**, everybody jealous. **PRODIGAL SON** comes home, been terrible, father throws a big party, **OLDER BROTHER** mad. "He throws away all your money, drinks, drugs, parties, sleeps with everybody, I stay home—where's my party?" **DISCIPLES**—all arguing over who's the greatest? **HEROD**—thought Jesus was another king, killed thousands of babies. **JEALOUS.**

I. THE PROBLEM WITH ENVY: A. **IT EATS AWAY AT YOUR SOUL.** Famous story, **MOZART, ANTONIO SALIERI.** He's the musician for the Emperor. Loves music, begs God for the talent to write gorgeous music, for the glory of God. But it's just ordinary. Then Mozart—who lives like an idiot—writes this fantastic music, hears all this music in his head, can't write it down fast enough. Drives Salieri crazy God, how can you give this terrible person such a gift, such fantastic music, and I do everything right, keep all the rules, I do it all for you—You give me nothing." Tries to kill Mozart—ends up insane.

B. WRECKS RELATIONSHIPS. Wrecked the angels in heaven, Cain and Abel. Saul throws javelin at David. Seen it wreck pastoral staff. Sports teams—stars, quarterbacks, make \$30 million, other guys, few hundred thousand. Destroys our government—people want to be president, won't fix problems in our country.

C. TAKES YOU AWAY FROM JESUS. Lucifer had to leave heaven. The Disciples got farther and farther behind, Jesus couldn't hear them. "What were you talking about—think they're walking with Jesus, but they are not "with" Jesus anymore, far behind.

DO YOU EVER NOTICE when you're walking farther and farther behind Jesus? Something's going on. Something's doing it. Look out. Find it. Fix it. One girl went to the pastor, Used to be so involved, so alive, close to God—now feel far from God, pray, prayers just go to the ceiling. When did it all start? 8 or 9 months ago. What happened then? Don't want to talk about that. Turned out, when she moved in with her boyfriend. Pastor said, **"THAT WILL DO IT!"**

1. **KNOWN SIN.** For a long time, we taught, any sin knocked you off the List. Had to repent, etc., to get back on The List! Then we taught, maybe, small, accidental slips—could stay on, if repent quickly. But not on known sin, capital sins, belligerent sins. But this story—disciples are still disciples, just not in the closest fellowship with Jesus. There is grace for every sin—but over time, one or the other sins will go.

2. Problem with sin, envy—not that it will make God take you off His list. It makes you walk farther and farther away from Jesus. And eventually not with Him anymore.

D. IT MEANS YOU AREN'T HAPPY WITH WHAT GOD GAVE YOU! If you're jealous of somebody else—you're wishing you had what they have—means not happy with how tall your

are, your hair, your job, your talents, your house, your whole deal. God had a DREAM for you, an entire package—and you're saying—Not good enough, God. My deal is just not good enough. It's a denial of God's plan for you.

1. Somehow kept thinking about the **OCEAN MOVIES. Ocean 11.** Gospel everywhere in these 3 movies. There's some terrible people in Las Vegas, and Danny Ocean gets 11 guys to pull off a scam to rip them off, hundreds of millions of dollars. First one takes 11 guys. **But the second one takes 12. 11 not enough. Have to have one more. Next one, 13—one more.** One of the guys is a little ASIAN guy, gymnast. Only way they can get into the vault. He rides inside a cart, past all the doors and codes and lasers—he pops out, does a backflip—opens the door from the inside. **THEY CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT HIM.** Ocean 12 has this incredible laser dance—bad guy dances with all these lasers around, flips, underneath—one of the most famous dances in the history of movies. But he loses. The team with the little ASIAN wins.

2. Here's the GOSPEL—Satan has taken over our world. God has to pull a “SCAM” to take it away from him. And He uses us—and He uses Everybody. Every single person is part of the SCAM, exactly who you are. You don't do exactly your part—God can't pull off the scam. **Your part in the scam is just as important as Billy Graham or the Pope or Ellen White or the President of the General Conference. Your part is just as important as mine or Elder Penick's or Mark Finley's.**

E. My own story—I was a good student in school. Little class in high school in Singapore, I'm in there in Algebra II, competing with all these guys who eventually were pre-med. Now doctors and surgeons and dentists. All have big houses and make a lot of money now, terrific people. The idea of doing surgery, take a knife, cut down somebody's chest—hopeless. Pastor. But for years, drive into Loma Linda—a little jealous. Money. Get to wear white coats. Nobody gives me a white coat. People call them Doctor. Every doctor thinks they can preach, talk in SS, give their ideas. But no doctor lets me do surgery. Jealous. Until I figured out who I was. I was not a **SPECIALIST.** There are people who are superstar preachers. Counselors. Youth pastors. Campus chaplain at La Sierra. Fantastic, preach, kids are laughing, get invited to speak for every graduation. I'm not that anymore. Then I heard about **DECATHLON—not the best at running or pole vault or shotput. But they're best at doing all 10.** I get to do all ten. In one day or week, go from preaching, to small group, to one-on-one, to mission trips, to do an anointing at the hospital. Then I was OK. I knew who I was, who God made me to be. **WHITECOAT** for nephew—no jealousy. Happy for them, happy for who I was. All part of God's scam, take world back.

1. NEWBURY PARK—doing doctoral dissertation, sermons, everybody evaluate. In 2 Sabbaths, couldn't write a sermon. Lost it. If somebody had given me another job, taken it. Called counselor friend of mine—better figure out, **BE YOURSELF.** Not Dwight Nelson, or Morris Venden. **BE COOL WITH YOUR ROLE, WHO GOD MADE YOU TO BE. LA SIERRA**—huge churches everywhere, Bill Loveless, Morris Venden, Celebration church, 2000, huge Spanish church, black church. What am I doing in the middle of all that? But God had a little spot for me.

F. GOD HAS AN INCREDIBLE SPOT FOR YOU, for everybody. And He will give you all the gifts you need to do exactly that. **GLORY. AND GOD** will not be denied. Nothing can stop God. **YES,** some things can happen down here to mess some things up. But it will always work out eventually—either here, or after the Resurrection. **ROMANS 8:28 “All things work out together for god for those who love the Lord, who are called according to His purpose.”**

G. Famous story—people who went to work at 8 in the morning, people went to work at noon, people went to work at 4. All quit at 5, owner paid them all the same. Early group is mad, envy, jealous—we worked in the hot sun all day, they work for an hour—how can you pay us all the same? Everybody worked, God has a plan for everybody—pays them all the same. Be happy with your part.

H. MANDELA—we're afraid of the Light. God has this incredible thing He wants us to do, never have to feel jealous of anybody—but we're afraid. Too big. Might fail. Too much pressure. So we don't do it. But ten we're jealous of the other people WHO DO IT. Take your destiny and go for it. **MICHAEL JORDAN**—The best ever. Coach Phil Jackson told him—can never take a night off. The one night someone comes to the game, only chance to see you play. And you aren't Michael Jordan that night.

There was a meeting, some of the greats, Isaiah Thomas, Magic, Larry Bird—what made Michael Jordan #1? Did it every night. Not afraid of the pressure—take your talent, and get the most out of it.

II. HOW TO GET RID OF ENVY: A. #1—**JESUS IS ENOUGH. BRACH**—Did a funeral, Wisconsin, Lake Geneva, all mansions. Family, ski boat, plane, helicopter, pilot flew him to work every day. Art work—in art class at school, kid raised hand, we have that painting in our house. No, copy. Mother had to come—no, we have the original. I’m standing there, wishing I had what they had. Guy comes up to me, Believe what you said at funeral? Yes. Wish I did. I used to. Maybe, if had preacher like you, I could. Shocked—I was sitting there, jealous of what he had—he was sitting there jealous of what I had. Vowed, never be jealous again. I have Jesus, second coming, heaven, clear conscience, purpose. **JESUS IS ALWAYS ENOUGH!**

1. DISCIPLES walking with Jesus—If you stay up with Jesus, walk with Jesus—then talking about who was greatest goes away. Just being with Jesus, fills up all the empty places in you that makes you jealous. When with Jesus—Jesus is enough.

B. **JESUS WILL TRANSFORM YOU.** Yes, Jesus will forgive all the jealousy and envy. But He will also fill you up, suck out all the poison, makes us look around.

C. **BIGGER ON THE INSIDE. TONY CAMPOLO** tells story, little black boy came from school, “Mama, am I a N—used the n-word. Who told you you’re an n-word? Kids at school Listen here—You’re an n-word when I tell you an N-word. And I will never tell you that.” Little **girl was eating huge cotton candy cone. “How can such a little girl eat such a big cone? “I’m much bigger on the inside than I am on the outside.”**

YOU HAVE TO KNOW THIS ON THE INSIDE. #1—**YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE CAN NEVER BE BASED ON WHO YOU ARE COMPARED TO OTHER PEOPLE—BUT BASED ON WHAT YOU MEAN TO GOD?** And we get that from the Cross. Jesus died for you—**ROMANS 5:10 “This is how we know the love of God—while you were still sinners, Christ died for you.”**

#2—**Your feelings about yourself can never be based on how you compare to other people—but how you compare to what God wanted you to be.** No reason to be looking at anybody else—hair, clothes, talent, house, money, nothing. Focus on what God is trying to make you to be—all those other feelings will get sucked away.

D. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—GALATIANS 5:22 “The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace....”

Today JOY. Joy in other people. Happy for them. Compliment them. High five them. Joy in what God made YOU to be. Your gift to the world is to be exactly you. Not somebody else. If you aren’t you, then you cheat the world. Your glory. APPLES. Survey, kids’ favorite fruit—APPLES. JOY.

E. JEALOUS FOR GOD—Lakers, Magic unretired, I got to go, front row. Everybody standing, cheering. Sick—when going to happen for God. Came home, Hilda watching ELTON JOHN. 35,000 people, standing, singing, cheering. When going to happen for God. Gave my life jealous for GOD. Fighting for God. Fighting for God destroys envy. Nothing else matters. Jealous for God.

APPEAL: Girl getting married. Father walking her up aisle—stopped—went and got the step-father, married to his ex-wife. But who helped raise his daughter, had her half the time—grabbed him—Let’s do this together, you helped raise her. Walked her down the aisle together. Everybody crying. Story gone all over the world. One man—over 1 million views in like a week. When we start doing moments like that, don’t care about who gets the credit—gospel will go all over the world.