



LESSON 11: He's breathing my air! Esther 5:9-14

Teacher: Beth Seifert

©Copyright Naomi's Table 2014

Read Luke 15:11-32. What did the younger son want?

How did he go about getting it? Was he successful in getting what he wanted?

Why was the older son mad?

What was the response of the father to the older son?

Often, we can see ourselves in either the younger son (rebellious, living in sin and reveling in it, wanting nothing to do with God just living for today) or the older son (wanting all that God offered and trying to earn it and getting madder and madder when those rebellious sons are offered the same thing we are offered).

Both are a problem with the heart: desiring the Father's stuff but not the Father. Ask yourself: do you identify more with the "bad" son or the "good" son?

What are ways in which you have tried to get what you want while not wanting God?

Read Proverbs 14:30. What does this proverb tell us that envy causes?

Can you describe a time when your envy caused this in your heart?

Read Mark 7:20-23. What is envy listed alongside here?

What does that tell you about the seriousness of this sin?

What does Jesus call envy (along with everything else in this "list"?)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What is the opposite of love?

How is envy described here?

What would that equate envy with?

Read Titus 3:1-7. How does Titus describe how we once were when we didn't know Christ?

Did we save ourselves from our flesh?

How were we saved?

Read Philippians 4:11-13. What has Paul learned? (Three things throughout these verses.)

Look at verse 13 in this context. Is Paul talking about winning a trophy or a prize at work?

What does this context tell you about what this verse is about? (Is it a promise that Christ will make your sports team win? What is it about?)

As you spend time with God today, bring Him your discontent and leave it with Him. Ask Him to help you to count your blessings but pray that, unlike Mordecai, those blessings would humble you not increase your desire for more. Ask Him to help you to see what envy does in your life and in the lives of those around you and give that over to Him today.