

Message Series: '**Satisfied? What does it take for you?**'

Message Title: '**Satisfied? Or Envious?**'

Scripture Source: **Ecclesiastes 4:4-6**

Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014

1. What was memorable to you from the message this week? Reflect on this for a moment.
2. In what area(s) of your life does envy emerge? How does envy change your outlook on yourself, your world, others and God?
3. How does living in today's society provoke us to envy?
4. Read Genesis 4:2b-12
  - What caused the breach in the relationship between Cain and Abel?
  - Describe the warning that God gave to Cain.
  - How did God's judgement against Cain relate to his sin?
5. Read Matthew 20:1-16
  - Why did the workers who started in the morning complain about the equal wages?
  - What was the land owner's rationale for his wage system?
  - What is Jesus' lesson regarding God's provision in our lives?
6. Read Matthew 27:15-20
  - How did Pilate know it was envy that had driven the people to bring Jesus to him?
  - What happened to Jesus as a result of the irrational envy that the crowd felt toward him?
  - How does envy blind us from the grace and love of God?
7. Read Philippians 4:11-13
  - Describe the perspective that allows Paul to ignore envy and instead be content with his life.

### Apply

- How do you recognize envy in yourself? What signs indicate that you are being drawn into this?
- List the things that you are envious of in others.
- Make a list of responses that will help you overcome feelings of envy.

### Pray

Lord, God Almighty, creator of my soul, I humbly come before you with a heart seeking your grace. Forgive my sin of envy that can seem so innocent, but is a soul destroyer.

I ask you to guide me into ruthlessly turning my heart away from the envy of anything in this world so that the deepest longing of my heart might be for you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.