

## **MOTHER OF MISERY AND OF MANY SINS**

**January 26, 2020**

**Genesis 37:1-36**

“And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt.” Acts 7:9

“Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.” Matthew 27:17, 18

Moved by envy, Joseph’s brothers sold him into Egyptian slavery. Thereby they enslaved themselves, and provide a lesson on sins that envy begets, and the misery that it creates.

### **1. The subtlety of envy: it does not appear to us to be sin.**

The Apostle Paul testified, “I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet” (Romans 7:7).

Envy captures and enslaves the whole person.

It perverts sound judgment

It corrupts motives

It poisons communications

Envy offers no rewards; no benefits.

### **2. The sorrow of envy—desire for happiness ignites it, yet it brings only sadness.**

Sorrow to the one who envies: Joseph’s brothers

“A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones”  
(Proverbs 14:30).

Sorrow to the one’s whom he/she envies: Joseph

“Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?” (Proverbs 27:4).

Sorrow to those who are impacted by the envious person: Jacob

“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled” (Hebrews 12:15).

### **3. The sinfulness of envy: it is a sin that begets many sins.**

Envy is never content; it demands satisfaction, and must express itself. Malice conceives malicious actions. Joseph’s brothers proceeded to hatred, murder in the heart, selling Joseph to the merchants, dreaming up a lie to tell to their father, feigning sympathy when their father grieved, and living that lie every day of their lives until they were exposed by Joseph himself. Their envy could never be satisfied, only acknowledged in repentance. That is its only cure.

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31, 32).