

# Love Life

*Part 4: Love Does Not Envy*



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**“Love does not envy.”**

1 Corinthians 13:4

### **What is envy?**

Ignoring God’s goodness to me and  
Resenting God’s goodness to others

### **The Story of the Vineyard Workers**

Matthew 20:1-15

God’s Kingdom is like an estate owner who went out early one morning, just before sunrise, to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them the normal daily wage of \$100 and sent them to work.

At 9:00 in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, too, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. At noon and again around 3:00 in the afternoon, he did the same thing. At 5:00 that evening he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, “Why haven’t you been working today?”

They replied, “Because no one hired us.”

The owner told them, "Then go on out and join the other workers in my vineyard."

That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. Those hired last came up and were each given \$100. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they, too, were given \$100. When they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard. "These last workers put in only one easy hour, and yet you have made them equal to us – we who slaved all day under the scorching sun!"

He answered one of them, "Friends, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your money now and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same as I paid you? Don't I have a right to do what I want with my own money? Should you be angry and envious just because I am generous?"

### **The Antidote to Envy**

**1. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to others.**

"Those hired last came up and were each given \$100. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more." (Matthew 20:9-10a)

**2. Start \_\_\_\_\_ God's goodness to others.**

"The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard... He said, 'Are you envious because I am generous to them?'" (Matthew 20:10-11, 15)

**3. Be grateful for \_\_\_\_\_**

"Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from God? So what's the point of all this comparing and competing? You already have all you need!" (1 Corinthians 4:7b-8a)

**4. Trust God when \_\_\_\_\_**

"These last workers put in only one easy hour, and yet you have made them equal to us – we who slaved all day under the scorching sun!" (Matthew 20:12)

The Owner: "Friends, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on... What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same as I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?" (Matthew 20:13-15a)

**5. Keep focused on \_\_\_\_\_ for you.**

The Owner: "Take your money now and go!" (Matthew 20:14a)

"Let us run the particular race that God has set before us."  
(Hebrews 12:1)