Dear Contemporary Comments Recipient:

Thanks to so many of you who responded to our note several weeks ago and started joining us on Facebook. It's our new way to deliver Contemporary Comments to you and other FREE resources to enhance your ministries at church and your own spiritual journey.

There are many more of you that saw the note and then got busy doing something else and failed to sign up for Ministry Edge our new Facebook application.

So in just a second, please click on this link and follow the process Facebook guides you through to access our application. By the way, despite Facebook's warning, we DO NOT access any of your personal information!

If you have any challenges accessing and bookmarking our application, here is a short video to walk you through it.

In addition, you can “Join” our Creative Ministry Facebook group at this link.

We promise, we won't overload you with useless content!

BTW, when you sign up with MinistryEdge, you'll stop getting this weekly e-mail.

Thanks so much,

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Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] Jealousy
[Text] Isaiah 14:12-14; James 3:16, 17; Exodus 20:17; Genesis 37; 1 Samuel 18; Matthew 12:14
[Use] March 5, 2011
Jealousy. At times it seems like an innocent little irritation between a couple of school children. But deeper down, at its core, it ends in violence and murder. Often it is in the context of broken relationships. "Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?" (Proverbs 27:4).

It is not difficult to open up this week’s news reports and see jealousy paint her wicked colors everywhere. "A 27-year-old East Falmouth man allegedly beat two people during a jealous-fueled attack early Friday morning, the police said. At 12:55 a.m., officers responded to the Great Bay Motel on Teaticket Highway and found two people—a man and a woman—who said Edwin Thibodeau, 27, of East Falmouth (south of Boston), had assaulted them. The female victim is Thibodeau’s ex-girlfriend..." 1

Sometimes the violence is directed at animals. "A Conklin (Michigan) man has been charged with killing two horses belonging to his wife and a stable owner he suspected was having an affair with her, police said..." 2 But it is still tied to hurting relationships.

Yet, it can exhibit itself on a larger scale. Take Wisconsin’s hoopla these last few weeks over Governor Scott Walker’s budget proposal cuts and protesters having a sit in at the capitol building. Could jealousy prompt some of the tension between the public and private sector workers? Frank Hammer (a retired General Motors employee), in a recent interview, suggests the right-wing "encourages jealousy among different sectors of the workers..." Quoting:

“So the vast majority of working-class Americans don’t enjoy the benefits of either private sector workers in unions or public sector workers in unions. And in my experience, jealousy is a really—an amazingly destructive human emotion. And folks like the Koch brothers and all these anti-union institutions in the U.S. are making use of this ingredient of jealousy to say, well, if I can’t have it (I'm speaking as a non-union worker), then why should they have it? And it's jealousy gone amok, and it's being stirred and manipulated by folks like the Koch brothers, who would like to do away with all collective organization of the working class as a whole.” 3

But in the end, this destructive emotion ends up turning on oneself. It is not uncommon to read stories like this: "Jealousy may have been a motive in a deadly murder-suicide in Luzerne County. Friends of Cait McGuire are mourning her loss Tuesday. State police said she was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Matt Brokenshire, late Sunday night in her home near Dallas. He then turned the gun on himself. One of McGuire's friends who spoke with her just hours before she died said jealousy may be to blame."

In this week’s Sabbath school lesson we take a deep look at jealousy in Scripture and are reminded that “A sound mind makes for a robust body, but runaway emotions (like jealousy) corrode the bones” (Proverbs 14:30, The Message).

~cr

1. Boston Herald
2. Grand Haven Tribune
3. The Real News
4. WNEP

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