

*The Children of Jacob*  
**Genesis 29:31-30:24**

Main Point:

Knowing that God distributes His blessings to fulfill His good purposes, instead of envying others, be happy for them and content with what you have.

1. You are prone to envy the blessings of others.
2. But envy should have no place in your life because it leads only to coveting and strife.
3. Instead of envying others, you need to remember that God distributes His blessings according to His will.
4. Since He does this to fulfill His good purposes, you should also be happy for others and content with what you have.

Quotations and Cross-References

**Jerry Bridges** “Envy is the painful ... awareness of an advantage enjoyed by someone else.”

**Matthew Henry** “Envy is grieving at the good of another ...”

**John Currid** “The act of placing a child on someone’s knees was a well-known practice in the culture of the ancient Near East. To perform it was ‘to acknowledge [the child] as one’s own’. It signified legitimization, and possibly even some form of adoption.”

**James 3:16** <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. (NKJV)

**Romans 13:13-14** <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts. (NKJV)

**Romans 11:36** <sup>36</sup> For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen. (NKJV)

**James 1:17** <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (NKJV)

**James 1:18** <sup>18</sup> Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. (NKJV)

**1 Corinthians 12:11** <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (NKJV)

**Ephesians 1:11** <sup>11</sup> In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, (NKJV)

**Romans 12:15** <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. (NKJV)

**Luke 12:15** <sup>15</sup> ... "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." (NKJV)

**Philippians 4:11-12** <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (NKJV)

**Hebrews 13:5** <sup>5</sup> *Let your conduct be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have ... (NKJV)

**Philip Ryken** “Contentment means wanting what *God* wants for us rather than what *we* want for us.”

**R. Kent Hughes** “Envy’s dark pathology diminished her own blessings and puffed Leah’s blessing way beyond reality.”

**Philippians 4:13** <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (NKJV)