



PART 2: Social Misery

INTRODUCTION

Your life was going just fine...until you saw someone else's. Funny how that happens. A little more than a decade into smartphones and social media feels more like social misery. You look at someone else's life/marriage/relationships/kids/job and it makes you...miserable. This week we'll look at why comparison is the thief of joy, and the path Jesus shows you to find much more contentment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was your life better or worse before you got onto social media (do you even remember your life before social)?
2. Carey quoted Steven Furtick, who said "The reason we struggle with insecurity is because we compare our behind-the-scenes with everyone else's highlight reel." To what extent have you seen that dynamic in your own life?
3. Thousands of years ago, Moses laid down what we call the tenth commandment in Exodus 20:17. Why do you think jealousy is such a pervasive issue in so many people's lives, then and now?
4. The first and second servants in Jesus' parable, recorded for us in Matthew 25:14-30, received exactly the same praise from their master when they returned vastly different sums to him. Why do you think the master was just as delighted even when servant #2 returned? What does this mean for you?
5. Forget FOMO. What could the joy of missing out look like for you?
6. The best way to kill jealousy (and self-pity) is to celebrate what God has given others, and leverage what God has given you. What needs to change for that principle to operate in your life?

MOVING FORWARD

Choose someone who's success or situation you can celebrate this week. Celebrate them publicly either with a verbal appreciation, written note or kind words in front of peers. Then, go leverage what God has given you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

Exodus 20:17