

Pastor Jay's Jottings

Grace Peace and Love to you from our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

One thing that continues to be prevalent in our house full of boys is the issue of “fairness.” We try our best as parents to ensure that there is as much equality among our boys as we can. Whether it is having the same amount of toys at Christmas, or the same amount spent on each one for their birthdays. We do our best to eliminate the possibility of one of the boys saying... “that’s not fair! He got more than me!” But it happens. We hear it more than we want to. Part of this is imbedded in the process of growing up. As we grow up and mature, the fairness issue shifts into more important things. Pay equality. Equal treatment. Respect. Etc. But the fairness issue never fully goes away on its own. Fairness is something that we like to have for ourselves, but not always for others. In the garden, this issue of fairness came up. When the serpent asked Eve, “Is it really fair that God won’t let you eat from the tree? That doesn’t seem right. What is God hiding? That doesn’t seem fair that you can eat from every other tree, but not this one.” Sound familiar? How often do we look at what someone else has and think, “that isn’t fair”. Fairness has its roots in envy. We battle with envy daily, as the world tries to market and sell us what they think we need to have. And if you don’t have it, it’s not fair. We struggle when someone gets a blessing in their life that we wanted. We struggle when someone’s life seems easier than ours. We struggle with fairness, because we struggle with envy. Envy is forgetful. In focusing on what we don’t have, we forget what we do have. Envy is selfish. Envy puts us at the

center of our own world. What helps our wants needs, and feelings drive the boat. Envy is shortsighted. Envy has a “right here – right now” mentality. Envy cannot see that this moment is not all there is. Envy is impatient. Envy doesn’t like to wait. It complains quickly and tires easily. Envy questions God’s wisdom. When you and I live with envy, we question God’s fairness, and we buy into the thought that we are smarter than God. And when we question God’s fairness, we quit running to Him for help. Friends, we all deal with fairness because we all deal with envy. There is only one way to aggressively combat envy. An abiding with Jesus. An understanding that we benefit from what He went through unfairly. That we don’t deserve what we got – an everlasting life with God – because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. It wasn’t fair that Jesus had to die for us. It isn’t fair that we benefit from His resurrection. But we do. And so does everyone who believes. Jesus is the only one who levels the playing field. He’s the only one who doesn’t care about fairness. It doesn’t matter what we have that others don’t. Or what others have that we don’t. In the end, if we all have a faith in Jesus, we all get the same reward. I pray that we take this approach in our lives. That we are thankful for what Jesus has done for us. And as we abide with Him deeper, pray that His life be what is important in ours. Give thanks for the unfairness of the cross, and the benefits we all receive from it. Cry out to Jesus that we would have thankful, humble, and patient hearts to deal with the unfairness of life. This is the Easter promise for us all if we turn from our ways and live for His. Please let me know how I can help you in this journey.

God Loves You and So Do I,

Pastor Jay