Sermon Theme: The disintegrating impacts of favoritism and jealousy and how to change

1. In the sermon Kevin said, “Want to make a child happy? Give her a scoop of ice cream. Want to make her unhappy? Give her brother two scoops of ice cream.” Can you recall a time when you were really jealous as a child?

2. Kevin noted that chapter 43 provides resolution to a book long theme of jealousy in Genesis. What consequences result from this sin in Genesis?

3. Some of the examples from Genesis show how expressions of favoritism particularly stirred up jealousy. What aspects of our culture at large or particularly here in the Charlotte community do you see particularly stirring up the sin of jealousy? Where do you see particular temptations towards jealousy occurring within the church?

4. Kevin said, “The sin of jealousy is rooted in deficient theology.” In what ways do our struggles with jealousy reveal deficiencies in our theology?

5. Chapter 43 closes with Joseph arranging the brothers in birth order at the table (v. 33) and the youngest, Benjamin, receiving five times more than his brothers (v. 34). Kevin highlighted that this was a test regarding favoritism and the temptation towards jealousy – and that his brothers passed the test this time. What do this chapter and the broader story of Joseph and his brothers show us about overcoming jealousy?

6. Where do you personally most encounter temptations toward jealousy? How can we fight against those temptations?


** Consider vv 14, 23, 29.

Additional scripture to consider: 1 Sam. 18:6-16; Luke 15:11-32; 1 Cor. 3:1-4; Gal. 5:18-24; James 3:13-4:10; Matt. 18:23-35; Matt. 20:1-16