

Question

I am watching as a local family in the community is being thrown into the limelight due to a fraudulent situation. It is tearing me in two. First off, I feel jealousy because suddenly they have all these wonderful possessions. Secondly, I feel bad as they are missing an integral part of their family. Yet, it is tough watching the scam continue. How do I come to terms with my feelings about this family...I am truly angry and resentful that they stole and continue to take advantage of the community to get ahead. I have a real bad taste in my mouth as I get dressed and go to work every day knowing I will never be able to get above poverty level and never own a home.

Answer

We thank you for your question. But this forum is not the best one to answer questions of such a personal nature. Perhaps the best advice we can give you is to talk to your pastor in person about this situation. Your pastor should be able to help you sort out your feelings and guide you to a proper course of action. There are so many questions we would like to ask you to better help you. What kind of evidence do you have that fraud and stealing are happening? Have you talked to the local family in question to address your concerns? Instead of being angry and resentful, do you need to think of the victims of the scam and report the illegal behavior to the proper authorities? Another question would be: Why do you feel you will never get above poverty level or own a home? It is nearly impossible to help you sort out your feelings without talking to you. It can be very tempting to be jealous of people rich with ill-gotten gains. But such jealousy does not take into account that God knows what is going on and threatens to punish all those who get their money dishonestly. "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" Jesus asked. There is quite a threat implied in that question. God addresses our attitude toward money many times in the Bible. For instance, he says, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" With God in your life and heart, you really have nothing to be afraid of. He has promised to provide all that we need for our bodies and life.

Hope this helps – God's blessings to you.