

# COMPARISONS: A Virtue or a Vice?

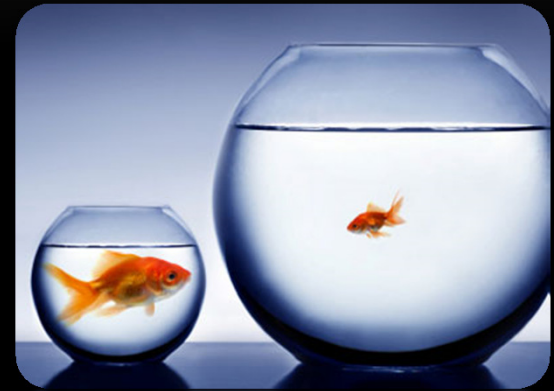


“But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another”

*Galatians 6:4*

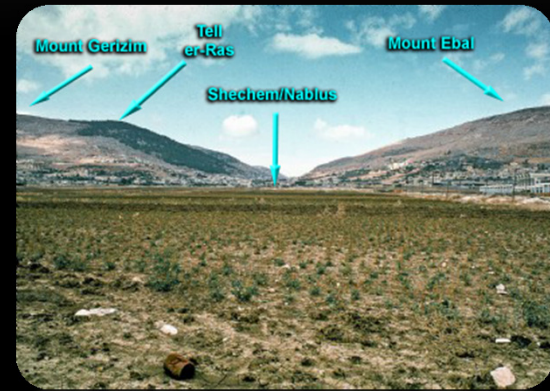
# Highlights

1. How did God use comparisons?
2. How did Satan use comparisons?
3. How do we learn negative comparisons?
4. Outcomes of negative comparisons
5. “Comparisons” as a virtue



# I. How did God use “Comparisons”? (1)

- God used them to show the different choices set before His people and the consequences of each of them.
  - Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim



# I. How did God use “Comparisons”? <sup>(2)</sup>

- The Lord Christ used them in many parables:
  - The sower
  - The rich man and Lazarus
  - The wheat and the tares
  - The ten virgins
  - The lost son



## I. How did God use “Comparisons”? <sup>(3)</sup>

- He used comparisons to defend the woman who poured the fragrant oil on His feet at the house of Simon the Pharisee and to praise the widow with the two mites



## I. How did God use “Comparisons”? <sup>(4)</sup>

- The Lord Jesus used them also to illustrate the difference between His children and those of the world: “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves”

*Matthew 10:16*



## II. How did Satan use “Comparisons”? <sup>(1)</sup>

1. To tempt Eve through a destructive ambition: “in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God” *Genesis 3:5*



## II. How did Satan use “Comparisons”? <sup>(2)</sup>

2. To underestimate God’s work: “But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments...And Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said”

*Exodus 7:11, 13*





## II. How did Satan use “Comparisons”? <sup>(3)</sup>

3. To deceive by offering an alternative:

- Altar to Baal in Samaria
- Money vs. God
- False prophets and religions
- Barabbas



### III. How do we learn negative comparisons?

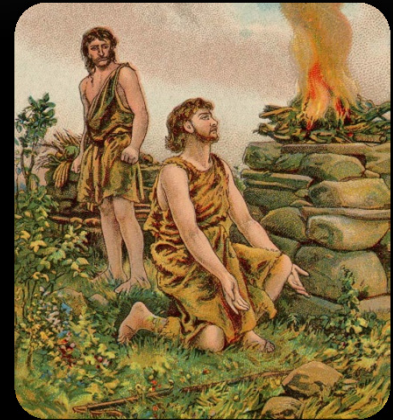
- Wrong motivational parenting style
- Lack of usage of the scale of measuring ourselves against the image and stature of the Lord Christ



## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” <sup>(1)</sup>

### 1. Jealousy and Envy:

- Cain and Abel
- Joseph’s brothers
- The impossibility of loving my neighbor as I love myself in the presence of these “comparisons”



## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” (2)

### 2. False boastings:

- The Pharisee and the Publican: “God, I thank You that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector”

*Luke 18:11*

- Boastings regarding possessions or social status



## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” (3)

### 3. Kindling the Spirit of Competition:

- “So the women sang as they danced, and said: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.’ Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him”

*1 Samuel 18:7-8*



## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” <sup>(4)</sup>

### 3. Kindling the Spirit of Competition

(Cont.):

- This will lead to refraining from offering help to those whom we perceive as rivals
- Hypocrisy and cunning behavior typically follow



## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” (5)

4. Distraction from self-examination and focusing on others' faults and shortcomings



5. Using comparisons to justify ourselves:

- “Everyone does the same”
- “Why do you correct me while others are doing the same?”

## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” <sup>(6)</sup>

### 6. Acquiring low self-esteem and being prepared for failure:

“There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” *Numbers 13:33*





## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” (7)

### 7. Accepting a deceiving reference:

- To judge or justify ourselves
- To wrongly define what is good and evil
- To misunderstand others' faults and struggles



## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” (8)

### 8. Self-pity: a mother breeding evil

- 1) Complaining against God and others and absence of thanksgiving
- 2) Negativity and self-centeredness
- 3) Drowning in excuses
- 4) Seeking others' sympathy at all costs

**SELF-PITY** IS EASILY  
THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE OF  
NON-PHARMACEUTICAL  
NARCOTICS  
**IT IS ADDICTIVE**  
GIVES MOMENTARY PLEASURE  
AND SEPARATES THE VICTIM  
FROM **REALITY**  
- JOHN W. GARDNER

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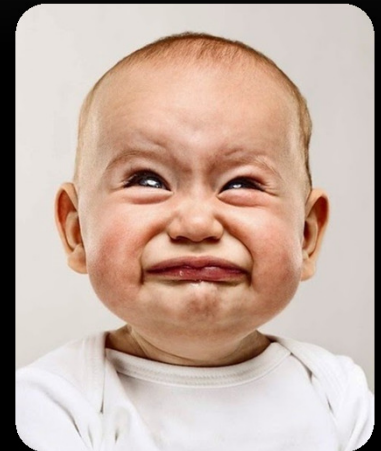
## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” <sup>(9)</sup>

### 8. Self-pity: a mother breeding evil (Cont.)

5) Avoiding self-examination and confession

6) Inability to take responsibility for own actions

7) Tendency to sadness and surrendering to the spirit of sorrow



## IV. Outcomes of negative “Comparisons” (10)

### 8. Self-pity: a mother breeding evil (Cont.)

8) Hinders forgiveness and reconciliation



## V. “Comparisons” as a virtue <sup>(1)</sup>

1. Measuring ourselves against the commandment, the standard and the image of God.

“...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”

*Hebrews 12:2*



## V. “Comparisons” as a virtue <sup>(2)</sup>

2. Comparing my current status with a better one from the past:
  - First Love
  - The lost son: “How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!” *Luke 15:17*



## V. “Comparisons” as a virtue <sup>(3)</sup>

3. Comparing myself to those who were not given what I was granted

- Thanksgiving
- Sense of responsibility
- Excusing others' faults



## V. “Comparisons” as a virtue <sup>(4)</sup>

4. Comparing ourselves to an example or a role model and walk in his/her footsteps.

