

The Long Ears of Envy

On the wall of a chapel in Padua, an old city in northeastern Italy, hangs a painting by the artist Giotto (1267 – 1337), who is generally considered the first in a line of great artists who contributed to the Italian Renaissance.

The painter depicted Envy with long ears that could hear every bit of news of another's success. He also gave Envy the tongue of a serpent to poison the reputation of the one being envied.

But if you could look at the painting carefully, you would notice that the tongue coils back and stings the eyes of the figure itself.

Not only did Giotto picture Envy as being blind, but also as destroying itself with its own venomous evil.

If we resent the success and accomplishments of others and find ourselves striking out at them with damaging words or insidious innuendoes, we have a problem with jealousy. But God has called us to administer the antidote of love.

That alone will keep us from becoming jealousy's victim.

Wrath kills a foolish man, and envy slays a simple one (Job 5:2 NKJV).

-- Beecher Hunter

