

forward and stand at the front of the church. Such a scene can hardly be imagined, but it was reported by an eye witness to have occurred as described. It is illustrative of how jealousy and rivalry can cause people to lose their senses.

This same kind of rivalry occurs within ministerial teams though not often so dramatically portrayed. It is more usual for the envy to cause those involved to simmer in silence until the pot boils over.

The anxious (threatened) heart. When a minister is faced with a situation that evokes the fear of being rejected, disapproved or judged inadequate for the task, he feels threatened and anxious. Such anxiety puts a strain on his relations with others with whom he is working. This is especially so if his associates are the source of the threat directly or indirectly.

For example, a senior minister in a growing church may agree with his board that it is time to call an associate pastor. The new man may have strengths in areas where the senior pastor is weak or may be gifted in the same area that the senior pastor perceives is his greatest strength. The new man is well received by the congregation. The senior pastor feels uneasy and watches like a hawk for any hint of disloyalty to his leadership. He begins to fear that he is losing ground and that the new man is gradually replacing him in the hearts of his people. His thoughts may become irrational. "This new man is trying to take over!" (Sometimes this is true.) Or he may conclude, "It won't be very long until they will be getting rid of me."