

Fran & Jesus on the Job – Dealing with a Jealous Coworker

Presented by Mary Lowman

Air Dates: October 27 – 31, 2025

Day One

Have you ever worked with someone who was jealous of you? In Fran and Jesus on the Job, Fran discovers a coworker is not only jealous of her but seeks to ruin her. As I periodically present these stories of Fran and Jesus, it is my prayer you will be encouraged to practice the presence of Jesus on your job and seek his guidance in every situation you face.

On this Wednesday morning, Marilyn, Fran's boss, comes into her office and says, "Fran, I want you to meet Jenny. She just transferred here from our Atlanta office, and she'll be working with Phil as his assistant."

"Glad to meet you," Fran says, as she extends her hand. "If I can help in any way, let me know."

"Yes, Jenny, you can always count on Fran. She's one of our best account reps, so she knows the ropes well," Marilyn adds.

"That's nice," Jenny says, "but I can hold my own. I...uh...I was sales leader in the Atlanta office last year, but I had to transfer out here because my husband took a new job, so..."

"Well," Marilyn chimes in, "we just didn't have a sales slot for Jenny right now, but I'm sure something will open up before too long."

"I sure hope so," Jenny says. "I didn't put in all that hard work as an account rep to work as an assistant." It is obvious Jenny is not happy with her current assignment.

As they leave, Fran thinks: She acts like she's too good to have that job. I think she's going to be trouble. But as soon as she starts that kind of thinking, the Spirit of God convicts her. "I'm sorry, Lord," she prays quietly, "forgive me for thinking of her in negative ways. Help me to have the right attitude toward her."

Fran is learning a very important principle about dealing with people. When you are working with someone you don't particularly like, don't allow yourself to indulge in derogatory thoughts about the person. Instead, pray for him or her. Every time you are tempted to think unkind thoughts about the person, just stop right in the middle and change those thoughts to a prayer. Pray for your attitude toward the person and pray for him or her.

Day Two

Solomon wrote: *Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy* (Proverbs 27:4).

Who indeed? Fran is discovering just how dangerous it is to work with a jealous coworker. A woman named Jenny transferred to Fran's office and accepted a lower position. She has become more and more vocal about how over-qualified she is for her job.

Today Fran and her good friend, Louise, are walking to the cafeteria when Jenny walks in behind them. Fran and Louise have tried unsuccessfully to be friendly to Jenny, but they try once again. "Want to join us for lunch?" Louise asks.

"Yeah, why not," Jenny responds. As they sit down to eat, Jenny says to Fran, "You had a presentation today, didn't you, Fran?"

"Yeah, we're trying to get the Edwards Construction account," Fran replies.

Jenny says, "I landed the largest construction company in the Southeast when I worked in Atlanta, you know."

Fran can feel the anger start to creep up within her. She sends up a wordless prayer before she responds. "I wish I had known, Jenny. I could have used your help."

"Well, they should have let me have that account," Jenny says. "I've got the experience that would have guaranteed we would get it. How did the presentation go?"

It's all Fran can do to answer Jenny with a civil tone of voice. "I really couldn't tell. They said it would be a week before they decide."

Louise is angry, too, and she just can't sit there without defending her friend. She says, "I can assure you, if anyone can get that account, Fran can. I'm sure you did a great job, Fran."

Jenny laughs and says, "Well, Louise, I'd expect you to say that about your good friend, but I'm looking at it from a business perspective. With my experience, I would have done a better job."

"Excuse me," Louise retorts, "but that's your opinion and you ought to keep it to yourself."

"Oh, Louise, don't take everything so personal. I'm just saying it like it is," Jenny replies.

"I call that rude," Louise says.

"Hey," Fran interjects, "this conversation is getting out of hand. Thanks for your loyalty, Louise, but Jenny has a right to her opinion. Maybe we better get back to work."

As they start to leave, Jenny says, "You know, it's stupid for women to be so emotional about these things. I'm just talking business, and you two keep taking it personal."

Fran and Louise walk away without another word to Jenny, but steam is coming out of Louise's ears. "Can you believe that woman? She's just jealous of you, Fran."

And jealousy can be dangerous.

Day Three

We continue our most recent story of Fran and Jesus on the Job. Fran finds herself on the receiving end of a jealous coworker, who is very vocal and very vicious in her attitude toward Fran.

A week ago, Fran made an important presentation to a new prospect, and today is the day she is to get their answer. This morning, in some quiet time with the Lord, Fran prays, "Lord, once again I give over to you the results of this new business. I pray you will give me a favorable response, but no matter what happens, help me to be gracious and kind."

Then she thinks about Jenny. Fran has struggled to have a right attitude toward her, because Jenny has said some unkind and rude things to Fran. "Lord, I know Jenny is not in my life by accident. I don't like her, Lord, but I want to be willing to let you love her through me. And Lord, help me to see her the way you see her. I know underneath her tough exterior and her angry demeanor, there is a big hurt only you can heal. Please help me to see her through your eyes."

About ten o'clock that morning, Fran makes the call and to her great delight, she learns they will sign a contract with her. She makes an appointment to be at their office first thing tomorrow morning, then goes in to tell her boss.

"Congratulations, Fran," Marilyn says, as she shakes her hand. "That is great news. We'll announce it at the meeting this afternoon." Marilyn is obviously pleased.

As the department gathers for the meeting, Marilyn enthusiastically announces Fran's success. "This is a very significant account, and Fran did a great job to land it. Obviously, she'll be needing help from the team. In fact, Jenny, since you've had some experience with construction companies, it might make sense for you to help Fran out. We can talk about that."

Fran's stomach does a couple of somersaults. How could Marilyn do that to her? She can never work with Jenny. Now what is she going to do?

As the meeting ends, everybody is congratulating Fran. Jenny starts to walk out without saying anything, when Marilyn stops her. "Jenny, why don't you and Fran come into my office for a few minutes. Let's talk about this new account."

"Lord," Fran prays silently, "I need wisdom, and I need grace. Please help me. You know I can't work with Jenny. Please deliver me."

She can hear that inner voice of God's Spirit responding to her panic. "What you can't do, I can." With that assurance, she heads toward Marilyn's office.

Day Four

Jealousy can cause any of us to do and say things that are hurtful and wrong. Fran is learning first-hand how the jealousy of a coworker can be very painful.

Jenny is jealous of Fran because of her success in the company. Now with a new account Fran has just signed up, it appears Marilyn is going to assign Jenny to work with Fran on it. For Fran, it's the worst possible news she could hear, because Jenny has been openly arrogant and rude to Fran.

As she and Jenny go into Marilyn's office, Jenny says to Fran, "If you think I'm going to take orders from you, think again, Fran. I know more about this account than you will ever know."

Fran has no opportunity to respond, as Marilyn walks in at that moment. "Well, it seems to me," Marilyn says, "you two are a perfect match to work on the Edwards account, since you have a lot of good experience with construction companies, Jenny."

The silence is deafening. Nobody says anything. Marilyn continues, "I am right, am I not, Jenny? You had a large construction account in Atlanta?"

"I certainly did," Jenny begins, "much larger than this one." The anger in her voice is obvious.

"I see," Marilyn says, beginning to sense there is a problem here. "Do you have a problem working with Fran on this account?"

"Well, truthfully, I think Fran should be working with me on the account, Marilyn, seeing how I know this business much better than she does," Jenny says. She is beginning to lose control. "I think you should just let me handle this account. That would make the best business sense."

"I see," says Marilyn. "So, you don't want to work with Fran on the account?"

"Like I said," Jenny begins again, "I think she should..."

"I know," Marilyn continues, "you think she should work for you. We better have a talk about this. Fran, would you excuse us please?"

As Fran walks back to her office, she is literally shaking. Fran prays, "Lord, do you want me to just volunteer to give her the account?" A battle goes on inside of Fran as she wrestles with this issue. She prays and fumes and thinks, and finally she says, "Lord, I can't stand Jenny, and there's no way I could give her this account. But if you want me to do it, I can do it for you. So, right now I relinquish the control and I'm willing to do what you want me to do. Just show me."

And with that, she sits quietly. Her spirit calms down, and the peace of God descends upon her—that peace that passes understanding. As soon as she lets go of her rights and gives the Lord permission to do his will, she can relax. Now she is in a win-win situation.

It's difficult to let go, isn't it? But letting go and giving God the control always brings peace.

Day Five

How would you like to work with someone who resents you, is jealous of you, and treats you rudely? That's what our friend Fran is facing on her job. Jenny, a new coworker, has been asked to work under Fran's supervision, but her jealousy and resentment have become obvious to the boss, Marilyn.

While Marilyn is having a private talk with Jenny, Fran is in her office praying for guidance. She told God if he wants her to relinquish this new account to Jenny, she will do so.

In a few minutes Marilyn walks into her office. "Fran, I explained to Jenny that I make the business decisions here, and I reminded her she was fully informed of what her status would be when she requested the transfer here. So, she's agreed to work with you on this account. If you have any problem, you let me know."

"Marilyn," Fran says, "I'm willing to give her the account if you want me to. But I'm not sure how easy it's going to be for us to work together."

"There's no way I'm going to let you give up that account. You won it, and it's yours. And if anybody can work with Jenny, you can, Fran." And with that Marilyn goes back to her office.

Since it's almost quitting time, Fran heads for the door just as Jenny is leaving. "Jenny," Fran says, "I know you're not happy with this latest arrangement. I can understand how you feel..."

"Oh, give me a break, Fran. You don't understand or care how I feel," Jenny comes back with great anger. "Just don't think I'm going to do all the dirty work."

"Jenny, please," Fran begins, "I even offered to give you the account, but Marilyn insists we can work together. I certainly want to try."

"You offered to give me the account?" Jenny is incredulous. "I don't believe it. You're just trying to make points with Marilyn. Just don't expect me to do your work for you, Fran."

Fran recognizes there is no way she can have a rational conversation with Jenny, so she goes to her car and heads home. The tears start to come. "Lord, what am I going to do?"

What is Fran going to do? There's no happy ending to this story. Fran cannot turn Jenny around, and as they work together, Jenny increases her attacks on Fran. Many times, Fran is tempted to go to Marilyn and tell her what's happening, but each time she has a check in her spirit. She spends many miserable days trying to work with Jenny.

Finally, Jenny resigns her position and leaves the company, full of bitterness and anger.

"It's so sad," Fran says to the Lord, "and I feel bad for her. But Lord, what more could I do?"

Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy (Proverbs 27:4).

Not every story has a happy ending, even when we obey the Lord and do what he tells us to do. But we can trust the results to him.