



The grass isn't always greener

Thought for CHA week commencing 14 June 2021

The grass is always greener on the other side

Have you heard this saying?

Do you know what this saying means?



'The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence' expresses the idea that other people's situations always seem better than one's own. The proverb carries an implied warning that, in reality, the grass is equally green on one's own side and that you should be satisfied with what you have.

This can be seen in envy and jealousy.

The grass isn't always greener.



You may think
the grass is
greener on the
other side. But
if you take the
time to water
your own grass,
it would be just
as green.

Do you think this is true?

Discuss. Do you all agree?





fb/david avocado wolfe

**Sometimes the grass
is greener on the other
side because it's fake.**

What about this?

Can we be deceived by publicity
and adverts?

Are all celebrities as good
looking and happy as they
appear to be?



Holly was a bright, pretty child. But she always wanted her friends' toys. She cried when her best friend got a beautiful doll for her birthday. She whined when the girls next door in matching new dresses. She pouted when her sister was taken to a theme park as a reward for good exam grades.

When Holly became a teenager, she turned her attention toward boys. She quickly mastered the use of makeup, lightened her hair dramatically, and learned to dress with a slightly sexy flair. Her competitive drive always drew her toward her friends' boyfriends, and she made it her habit to call them, ask them for advice, and sow seeds of criticism about the girls in their lives. Then, at eighteen, she met Jack and Tammy Jensen, a couple in their thirties who were youth leaders at her church. At first Holly innocently joined the other kids at the Jensens' home. They gathered as a group, watched videos, and just hung out. But before long, Holly was spending a lot of time talking to Jack—alone. Like any married couple, Jack and Tammy had their small differences from time to time, and Holly instinctively homed in on them. While flattering Jack on one hand, on the other she gently questioned his reactions to Tammy's quick temper, her same old hairstyle, or her not-quite-perfect housekeeping. Holly's divisive arts were astonishing, as were her manipulative capabilities. She called the Jensen home in tears one night from a pay phone, hysterically claiming to have been kicked out of the house by her parents. She asked Jack if he could pick her up. She knew the family well enough to calculate that Tammy would be getting dinner on the table for the children and that Jack would arrive alone. He did.

Jack listened to her story patiently, and by now he felt close enough to Holly to put his arms around her in comfort. The truth was, he'd been wanting to hold her in his arms for weeks. Before the night was over, the two of them had made love. Before the year was over, Jack and Tammy had filed for divorce, Jack had left the church, and he and Holly were living together. The tragedy didn't end with the breakup of Jack and Holly's marriage. In fact it continues. Holly has become disillusioned with Jack—she complains that he's too old for her. She constantly compares him to younger men, humiliating him with caustic jokes about his weight, his thinning hair, and his middle-aged attitudes. Holly wants a house at the beach, like the Fosters'. She needs a new car, like the Jarvises'. She and Jack fight constantly and bitterly over her insatiable desires for more things, better things, things her friends have that she'll never get because Jack is "such a boring old man."

Holly always thought 'the grass was greener'. She didn't seem to learn from finding out it wasn't.

In what circumstances do people think 'the grass is greener'?



Holly always thought 'the grass was greener'. She didn't seem to learn from finding out it wasn't.

In what circumstances do people think 'the grass is greener'? Did you think of these?

- At home – does your brother or sister get more attention, bigger portions?
- At school – is someone better at sport, certain subjects, art? Do they have nicer friends?
- Relationships – think back to the tale of Holly. Do other couples always have more fun?



Jealousy and Envy

- ◆ Envy is the desire to have something that is not your own
- ◆ Envy is spite and resentment at the success of another person
- ◆ Jealousy is an emotion and typically refers to the negative thoughts and feelings of insecurity, fear, and anxiety over an anticipated loss of something



What causes this envy, jealousy that makes the grass seem greener?



What causes this envy, jealousy that makes the grass seem greener? Did you consider these?

- Dissatisfaction
- Comparison to others
- Pride
- Seeking significance/Low self-esteem
- Desire for worldly gain
- Seeking money, appearance, status, achievements, or talents that are of only temporary value

How can you avoid or stop feeling that 'the grass is greener'?



What if grass is greener on the other side,
Because it's always raining there,
Where the ones who never fail to give,
Hardly have enough to spare,
Where the people with the broadest smiles,
Have pillows filled with tears,
And the bravest ones you've ever known,
Are crippled by their fears,
It's filled with lonely people,
But they're never seen alone,
Where those that lack real shelter,
Make you feel the most at home,
Maybe their grass looks greener,
Because they've painted on its hue,
Just remember from the other side,
Your grass looks greener too.

- **Erin Hanson** -

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Whoever always looks for
greener grass on the other side



will never be able to appreciate
the green grass that was right
under their feet the entire time.



The Bible has things to say about jealousy and coveting, thinking ‘the grass is greener’. Here’s an example.

The Parable of the Tenants

Then Jesus spoke to them in parables: “Once there was a man who planted a vineyard, put a fence round it, dug a hole for the winepress, and built a watch-tower. Then he let out the vineyard to tenants and left home on a journey. When the time came to gather the grapes, he sent a slave to the tenants to receive from them his share of the harvest. The tenants seized the slave, beat him and sent him back without a thing. Then the owner sent another slave; the tenants beat him over the head and treated him shamefully. The owner sent another slave, and they killed him; and they treated many others the same way, beating some and killing others. The only one left to send was the man’s own dear son. Last of all, then, he sent his son to the tenants. ‘I am sure they will respect my son,’ he said. But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the owner’s son. Come on, let’s kill him, and his property will be ours!’ So they seized the son and killed him and threw his body out of the vineyard.”

“What, then, will the owner of the vineyard do?” asked Jesus. “He will come and kill those men and hand the vineyard over to other tenants”.

Mark 12

The Moral

Quite a gruesome story! You may think the moral is that if you want something bad enough, you just need to beat someone over the head and take it!

That is not the moral, though.

Because the tenants were filled with greed and envy they turned to violence to take what was not theirs. When they were asked to return it they became more violent. Even the landowner's son was murdered. The violence did not stop there. The landowner is poised ready to kill the tenants and to give his land to new tenants.

What would have happened next?

*If we are always expecting the grass to be greener, we will never be happy
– especially if we spend our lives wanting what others have.*

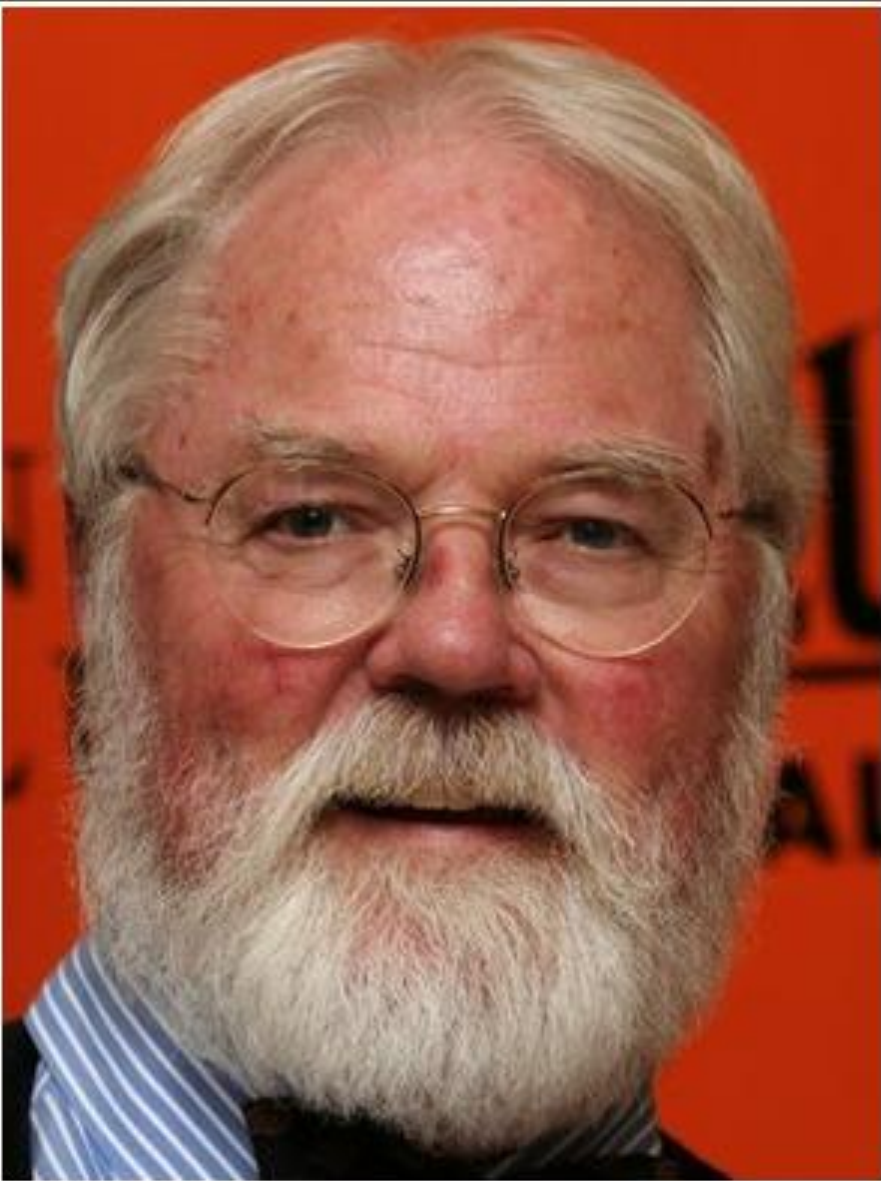


The Prophet peace and
blessings be upon him said

**Beware of envy,
for it devours
good deeds just
as fire devours
wood or grass.**

Sunan Abī Dāwūd
4903, Sahih





The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence. No, not at all. Fences have nothing to do with it.

The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be.

— *Robert Fulghum* —

AZ QUOTES



Is the grass
really greener
on the other
side?

247ModernMom.com

Nope...
It's the same
grass, under
a different
light.

Things
aren't
always as
they appear.