



X

DO
NOT
COVET

Exodus 20:17

*“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house;
you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or
his male servant or his female servant
or his ox or his donkey or anything
that belongs to your neighbor.”*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Exodus 20:17; Matthew 15:18-19; Ephesians 5:3-5; 1 Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19.
2. Define coveting. What is at the root of coveting?
3. What are the habits needed to develop and guard one's heart from a covetous nature?
4. How does covetousness show up in our lives? What does it look like?
5. How would the Lord have us to live in a materialistic culture?
6. Restate this command in a positive light. How would this command read?

Wonderful Treasures

Matthew 6:19-24

The Lord has a way of getting our attention! I often told my children to “look and learn!” Life lessons were and are all around us.

We had only been away from our little home for an hour! We came home and found our back door had been broken into, and two of my favorite guns that I had laid out for cleaning when I got home were gone. The value of the guns was in the memories of how I received them. But they were gone, never to come back! I grieved that they were stolen from me, but the Lord does not want us to find our contentment in material things.

The Lord is not wanting us to run the race of life in vain. On many occasions Jesus implored His followers to seek the rewards God is eager to give to those who serve Him and seek His kingdom first in their lives (Matthew 6:33). Amazing, isn't it, that even a cup of cold water given in the name of Jesus is not unnoticed by our Heavenly Father (Matthew 10:42) and there is an eternal treasure that will be given on the day of accountability (2 Corinthians 5:10) that will never be lost, stolen, eaten by moths, or worn out (Matthew 10:42)!

Our Heavenly Father will not be a debtor on that day of accountability. We will not say on that great day, “That's it? That is all I get for serving You?!” Never! On that day we will be totally thrilled and overwhelmed when we see Jesus, and His rewards will be worth it all (1 Corinthians 2:9)!

Application: “Thank you, Lord, for supplying all that I need in Christ! Help me to find my greatest contentment in You. Please help me to run the race well and to be eager to hear you say, ‘Welcome home! Well done!’ Amen.”

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DAY 47 - DO NOT COVET

Wearing The Lens Of Thankfulness

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I saw a phrase before—“Remember that you once prayed for the things you have now.”

There is something about us that is always seeking more—better—is it the American Dream? Or the God-shaped hole in our hearts that is always seeking our perfect home in heaven? I don't know...but I do know that living this human life on this imperfect earth is so much fuller when I look at my life through the lens of thankfulness.

When we put on this lens, we appreciate the little things; we are content with what we have; we stay close to Jesus in prayer; we see God's provision; we are filled with His joy—for the life that we have, instead of the life that we covet.

Application: How can you choose to be more thankful today? (It is a choice!) Start writing out a list of things you are thankful for. It might be difficult at first but work out your thankfulness muscle and you will begin to see things flow. What do you have now that you once prayed for? Pray for the Lord to show you, and to help you live life with thankfulness each day.

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DAY 48 - DO NOT COVET

Trusting The Lord

Psalm 139:8-10

On a morning walk along the lake during a trip to Hume Lake, I looked up at the mountain and thought that with just a stretch up on my tippy toes, I could touch the Heavens. It seemed that close. This thought led me to pray and worship right there on the path. As the weekend came to a close, we twisted down the mountain roads towards home. My mind started to fill up with the challenges and “to do lists” waiting for me the closer we got to the Valley. Anxiety crept in replacing the mountain-top peace. The Lord then reminded me of His promise; in both the great heights and the depths, He is with me in both.

Application: Are you in a place where you feel a distance from God? Perhaps, digging a bit deeper, do you even feel a bit of envy when you hear and see what God is doing in others? Do you ever wonder...has God forgotten you? Consider prayerfully reading Psalm 139 as part of your devotion today, especially verses 8 through 10. Let His word remind you of the great, personal love He has for you. Let the other thoughts fall away and fill your mind with the Truth of His words. He has not forgotten you, but instead is holding you tight.

“Lord, help me remember that no matter where I am, you love me and have me in Your hands.”

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Where Are The Nine?

Luke 17:11-19

One of the touching stories in the Gospels is the account of the 10 lepers. In the days of Jesus, lepers suffered pain, separation from family and friends, threats, rejection, stench, and many died at night from the chewing of rats on their bodies.

Leprosy in Christ's time was Death Row! Jesus had a question after He healed the 10 lepers and they just walked away. "*Were there not ten cleansed?*" One man said thanks! Only one.

Gratitude changed that man's life forever, and it can yours, too! Here are three signposts to having a thankful heart!

1. **Be grateful for an imperfect gift.** (James 1:7)

Ever receive an imperfect gift? In this world that is all you will ever get, but we are to be thankful! Your body? Marriage? Job? Children? All imperfect gifts, yet we are to be thankful for them!

2. **Express thankfulness often, openly, and to others.**
(Psalm 103)

A 45-year-old man remembered a schoolteacher he once had and sent him a card of thankfulness. He got a response within one week: "Dan, I'm 87 years old now. I taught school for 53 years, and your card was the first note of thanks that I have ever received!"

3. **Try to be thankful in times of hurts and frustrations.**

What a ministry it is to see people that are hurting and, yet they are still grateful for the blessings of life! A lady who lost her two children in a car accident once told me, "Oh, the mercies of God still roll over me as I remember this tragedy."

Application: "Father in Heaven, forgive me for my focus on myself and the lack of gratitude that so often characterizes my life. Thank you for shepherding my life, in the good times and the bad for your kingdom purposes! Amen."

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DAY 50 - DO NOT COVET

On Being Attached To "Things"

1 John 2:15-16

In our Christian lives we need to be careful about getting too attached to both things and people. Often our lives are very comfortable, and we like it that way! And unfortunately, we begin to evaluate our importance and our quality of life by our "things."

As we consider the last commandment (Exodus 20:17), we might think about our attachment to "things" in relation to covetousness. God does not want our enjoyment of "things" to stand in the way of our enjoyment of God. So John warns us of three things.

The lust of the flesh. A good translation here might be, "the enjoyment of things that make life comfortable." We may be too ready to apply these words simply to sensual pleasure, which would be right, but there is so much more. Be careful about seeking things and situations aimed primarily at being comfortable. Such care can foster a "me first, me only" attitude that contributes a host of negativity to our lives.

The lust of the eyes. A good translation here might be, "having to see all the sights of the world." Some folk spend lots of time and money traveling the world. And we tend to think highly of people who have done so. And seeing the sights is fun! But the lust of the eyes can stand in the way of faith.

The pride of life. Many spend much time and effort gaining a good reputation. But one of the central messages of Proverbs is to gain knowledge and understanding of God, which leads to wisdom. And then God will give us discernment which leads to a good reputation. Get your good reputation from God! Spend your time loving God and let God provide all you need.

Application: "Father in Heaven, forgive me for finding greater joy and contentment in the things of this world, rather than You. Things will come and go in my life, but You will always remain faithful in Your love for me. Amen."

Contributed by Dr. James Huckaba

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JOURNAL



