

Today, I want to talk about the sin behind all sins.

In the past weeks we have been studying the Commandments of God.

We had spoken thus far on the first 4 commandments:

No Other God – Do not create your own

Do not carry the name of God in vain –

Honor the Sabbath

We spoke also on the dangers and sins of Murder and Adultery.

Jesus tells us, hatred for a brother or sister for no cause is considered **murder in the heart**.

Jesus also tells us, that **lusting for a person is adultery at heart**.

We also spoke on Honoring your mother and father, the first commandment with promise.

We spoke on how our parents are the first line to authority, discipline, and instruction.

Today I am moved to speak about the sin behind all sins.

Exodus 20:17 “Thou shall not covet.”

Coveting is a secret sin that hides in the heart.

It looks harmless, and sometimes feels normal but in reality, it leads to bigger sins.

Coveting is the seed of Adultery, Theft, Murder, and Rebellion which leads to spiritual defeat and failure.

Coveting is more than just wanting something or desiring something. It is driven by a passion for wanting what someone else has.

This is why people steal, why they defraud people, why they murder, why they rebel, and why they disobey God.

The “I WANT THIS or THAT”

Coveting produces the willingness to put God and everything second to fulfill the desires of your flesh.

Doing things in which God is second is the indication that you are in the sin of coveting.

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, **nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**

I want to add that coveting is not only about wanting someone's material goods. Sometimes it is coveting people's attention, time, and emotional admiration that do not belong to you but to someone else's or even to God.

Today I want to bring to you three stories of people who have coveted and the effects of it:

The First one – The sin of Achan

Joshua 6:18-19 And you, by all means **abstain from the accursed things**, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a

curse, and trouble it. (19) **But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."**

Joshua 7:1-26

(1) But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for **Achan** the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, **took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.** (2) Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai. (3) And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, **for the people of Ai are few."** (4) So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. (5) And the **men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men**, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water. (6) Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.

(Joshua Prays)

(10) So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? (11) **Israel has sinned**, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. **For they** have even taken some of the accursed things, and have **both stolen and deceived**; and **they have also put it among their own stuff**. (12) Therefore **the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies**, but turned their backs before their enemies, because **they have become doomed to destruction**. **Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you**.

(20) And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: (21) When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it." (25) And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

Coveting does not only destroy you

But also those around you

THEY have sinned

THEY will not be able to stand

I WILL NOT BE WITH YOU unless you remove it

Coveting of NABOTH VINEYARD

1 Kings 21:1-16

(1) And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. (2) So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money." (3) But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!" (4) So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; ...And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

(7) Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "**You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.**"

THE PLOT TO BEAR FALSE WITNESS

..... (13) And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying,

"Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died.....(16) So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

COVETING destroys you from the inside out.

Causes depression and bring attention from the wrong people. (David's Son Amnon who ended up abusing his half sister Tamar.)

COVETING produces jealousy and envy. If I can't have it you can't either.

COVETING produces a spirit of entitlement. I deserve it also and I can take it because...

THE SIN OF DAVID

2 Samuel 11:1-6

(1) It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. **But David remained at Jerusalem.**

(2) Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. (3) So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "**Is this**

not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

COVETING BRINGS FOR SIN

(4) Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. (5) And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

THE SIN BRINGS FORTH DEATH

(6) Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

COVETING DOES NOT only destroy those around you, but even those who are fighting for you.

HOW TO OVERCOME COVETING

Don't let the world convince you that popularity or material wealth is the key to happiness.

Luke 12:15 "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Don't get into the mindset that money is the solution to all your problems.

Hebrews 13:5 “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

Be convinced that your goal is Godliness and that you are blessed with what you have.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. (7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (8) **And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.**

Let your goals be seeking God and Him alone and everything else will fall into place.

Matthew 6:31-33 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. (33) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.