

Our Truest Treasure
Exodus 20:17
The Tenth Commandment

"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 is your neighbor's."

Throughout the year we've been looking for Jesus in the OT. In the TC series, we've seen how Jesus is the fulfillment of each of these commands.

This command, like all the rest, is really about Jesus as our truest treasure.

Think about those six commands on the 2nd tablet –

- a) Jesus is our first and most important relationship.
- b) Jesus is Life
- c) Jesus is Sufficient
- d) Jesus is Enough
- e) Jesus is the Truth
- f) Jesus is Enough

Each of these commandments point us to Jesus who is our all (Col 3:11).

First: The God Who is Enough

The commandments end where they began, with thinking about God as God.

Exodus 20:2 - I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Who are we, and what do we have that does not start with God.

Psalm 100:3 - Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness

Second: Our Coveting Hearts

At its core, coveting reveals a dissatisfaction with God. This is what happened to Adam and Eve.

Genesis 2:1-5 – T

What's really going on here? What accusation does the devil make? It is that God is not enough. God is holding out and there's something more you need that God didn't provide.

This Adamic doubt is in all of us.

- a) We think too little of God.
- b) We think too highly of ourselves.

IMP: Get your theology right, and your anthropology right and everything else will fall into place.

Our doubts and fears are driven by wrong theology and wrong anthropology.

- a) We doubt God is good – doubt.

I.e., God really won't take care of me, so I have to do it myself.

- b) We doubt God is omnipotent – fear.

I.e., God really can't take care of me, so I have to do it myself.

Let me illustrate this truth with a Bible story.

- Saul was Israel's first king but failed.
- While Saul was still king, God chose David to be Israel's second king.
- Saul refused to relinquish the crown and repeatedly tried to kill David.
- But Israel, and even Saul's son, Jonathan, fell in love with David.
- As a result, David and Jonathan made a covenant, in which,
 - Jonathan surrendered his weapons and David became his protector
 - Jonathan trusted David with his family (Think Mephibosheth)

1 Samuel 20:41b-42 - *David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most.* ⁴² *Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'" And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.*

(Oh, Jonathan, why did you return to the city and Saul when you have confessed David as your king should have followed him into the wilderness?)

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love;
Take my heart, oh, take and seal it
With Thy Spirit from above.*

- But the day came when Saul went to battle and called Jonathan to accompany him
- Jonathan died, along with Saul and his two brothers

1 Samuel 31:6 - *Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together.*

Third: Jesus as our Model and Means

Psalms 84:10a - *For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.*

You know this but let me remind you.

There came a day when Jesus could have doubted God's goodness and omnipotence.

At Gethsemane, which means, 'wine press,' his soul was pressed.

Luke 22:42-44 - *"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."* ⁴³ *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.* ⁴⁴ *And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

(See note after the Daily Devotion)

He could have coveted life but that would have meant denying God and he chose not to.

Jesus is our model for not coveting the most valuable, temporal treasure, life.

Fourth: Jesus as our Truest Treasure

Covet = is *chamad*, translated as, "covet", "lust", or "strong desire."

Deuteronomy 7:25-26 - *The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. ²⁶ And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.*

This may appear like overkill, but why would you not destroy something that will destroy you?

Our problem is not desire, it is that our desire is misplaced. We desire the wrong thing because we don't know the right thing...or know it well enough. And so, our desires aren't strong enough.

But take it from someone, David, who knew theft, adultery and even murder, who desired the wrong things and who learned the difference the hard way –

Psalm 84:10a - *For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.*

Or Paul, who also knew the world's successes –

Philippians 3:3b-11 - *...put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his*

sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

And this is why we are enjoying communion today, to remind ourselves of who God is and what he is doing and how he is invaluable.

Conclusion:

Covetousness hides the glory, worth, goodness and trustworthiness of God. It misrepresents God as too little and you as too big. God is equally good and trustworthy.

We certainly do have more than 10,000 reasons to bless the Lord. And think about this -

*How rich a treasure we possess
In Jesus Christ, our Lord
His blood, our ransom and defense
His glory, our reward
The sum of all created things
Is worthless in compare
For our inheritance is Him
Whose praise angels declare*

Community Groups

- 1 – Read Exodus 20:17
- 2 – What does 'covet' mean?
- 3 – What are humans tempted to covet?
- 4 – What are you tempted to covet?
- 5 – What has been the most significant thing you've learned about the TC?
- 6 – How has the TC challenged/impacted/changed you during this study?
- 7 – In what ways does God satisfy you?
- 6 – What did Adam and Eve covet?
- 8 – How are their sinful hearts passed to us?
- 9 – Why do we doubt God's goodness?
- 10 – What is the source of our fear (the sources of our fears)?
- 11 – How does Jesus model a contented heart?
- 12 – Finish this sentence. "*Our problem is not desire but....*"
- 13 – How will you defeat covetousness?

Daily Devotion

Mon, Oct 9th. Read Ex 20:17, Ps 100:3, 2 Ptr 1:3 & Jn 8:36. The TC are given to a free people and not intended to free a people. You are free in Christ. Covetousness will imprison you. What are you coveting? Does that covetousness bring you joy or heartache? Does it liberate you or restrict you? Perhaps seeing God in Psalm 100 will break the prison bars of covetousness in your life. Take time to read it, meditate on it and even memorize it.

Tues Oct 10th. Read Ex 20:17, Gen 2:1-5 & Ps 100. Can you see covetousness in the first temptation? What were A&E coveting? (You might remember that covetousness is what made Lucifer rebel against God). How does trust in God's goodness and omniscience combat covetousness? When/how have you been tempted to doubt God's goodness? His omniscience? How did you resolve it? How are you combatting covetousness now? Thinking on God's goodness is a remedy. Re-read Psalm 100 and commit it to memory.

Wed, Oct 11th. Read Ex 20:17, Ps 84:10a, Mt 26:36-46, 1 Cor 1:30. Covetousness thinks too little of God and too much of self. In the Mt passage, how did thinking more highly of God than himself, enable Jesus not to covet life? Jesus is the personification of wisdom. In what ways does this passage instruct your soul to live wisely, choosing God over self's desires? How does it 'steel' you against covetousness? Perhaps the Mt passage is the one to read when you are tempted to covet, asking the Holy Spirit to live Christ's life in you of love for and contentment with God.

Thur, Oct 12. Read Ex 20:17, Phil 2:5-8, Phil 3:3b-11. The Phil 2 passage illustrates what Jesus surrendered to love God more than his own life. The Phil 3 passage is Paul's expression of following Jesus. Every day presents the same choice for us; satisfaction or dissatisfaction with and in God. How do both passages encourage you to be satisfied with Jesus? Take time to re-read those passages, to reflect on them as fights against covetousness and then memorize parts of each passage so that the Holy Spirit can quicken Christ's life in you in your moments of temptation.

Fri, Oct 13. Read Ex 20:17. In our response song we sang, *"How rich a treasure we possess, in Jesus Christ our Lord. ... The sum of all created things is worthless to compare."* Do you believe that if you put every created thing together, that sum would still fall far short of God's worth? Which of this week's passages best illustrates Jesus's worth to you? This is the passage to meditate on, to memorize, and to recite when you are tempted to covet. Read that passage out loud. Let the Holy Spirit read it to you as you do so. And then, in prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to make it come alive in you.

Note

As explained by Dr. Frederick Zugibe, (Chief Medical Examiner, Rockland County, New York

“‘Around the sweat glands, there are multiple blood vessels in a net-like form.’ Under the pressure of great stress the vessels constrict. Then as the anxiety passes ‘the blood vessels dilate to the point of rupture. The blood goes into the sweat glands.’ As the sweat glands are producing a lot of sweat, it pushes the blood to the surface - coming out as droplets of blood mixed with sweat.”

In a 1917 book on dermatology, the author, William Allen Pusey, explains hematidrosis:

“Hematidrosis is excretion of blood or blood pigment through the sweat glands. It is, as a rule, one of the manifestations of purpura and is analogous to the hemorrhages that occur from purpura in other structures. It is sometimes a manifestation of highly emotional disturbances and is associated at times with the bleeding stigmata of hysterical subjects.”

<https://christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-t018.html>

Read also:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2810702/#:~:text=Hematohidrosis%20also%20known%20as%20Hematidrosis,%5B1%5D%20Manonukul%20et%20al.>