

# Exodus 20:17

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

## The Point:

People often go through deep emotional distress while they are perfectly healthy and have infinite opportunities to achieve any goal reasonably within reach. In other words, while they feel as though they have lost all hope, they are literally moments away from greater fulfillment than they could have ever imagined.

## The Question:

Why do we do this?

We subject ourselves to other people. We make ourselves small and them large. We make another person our ruler. We follow impressive people instead of the LORD. We crave what others have.

Don't envy others. Don't allow yourself to be sad because you want the life that another person has.

Jesus endured the cross for the reward that He saw ahead of him.

*Hebrews 12:2-3*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. enjoyed the kind of life that others envy,

He never got to raise his children.

Whitney Houston defined a musical era,

She was despised, criticized, and hounded by haters for most of her life.

No matter how good someone else's life looks they are having problems you would never want.

I'm not minimizing your pain; I want you to understand that you are not alone.

Judas Iscariot stole money from the treasury and he betrayed the Lord. Many people try to guess why Judas betrayed Jesus: I offer fleshly or carnal mindedness. Judas was concerned with money. He seemed to be a shroud finance guy. He failed to see God because he was

consumed with making money. When you are in the flesh you can't see straight. Judas didn't see Jesus with spiritual eyes but regular, natural perception.

We can't perceive spiritual things with natural reasoning. We must come out of the flesh and into spiritual thinking if we want to see God!

*Transition from notable stars to common story.*

The Crenshaw High School Story:

You may not get what you signed up for but you will get far more than you could imagine if you stay the course; if you continue on, if you don't give up.

- I never would have played had I known my journey.
- When you are going through your test, focus on passing your test.

**Covet** means desire or lust. It is not the wanting of something that is wrong, but wanting it at the expense of others or from a motive of jealousy or envy. <sup>1</sup>

The Holy Spirit is still directing us not to covet.

Much of our dissatisfaction with life is our perceived lack.

We are sad because we don't have what other folks have.

R/T=S where R is Righteousness, T is Time and S is Success

1. Wealth is defined as one penny more than you need.
2. You can't make other people happy, but you can make yourself happy no matter who you are around.

R/T=G where (we believe) God is progressively developing and growing us toward Himself. (Sanctification)

Matthew 6:10 "Your kingdom, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."

The desire for God's kingdom-Your kingdom come-is based on the assurance that God will fulfill all His covenant promises to His people. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jack W. Hayford, *New Spirit Filled Life Bible*, (Thomas Nelson, 2002), 103 [Note regarding Exodus 20:17, defining "Covet."]

<sup>2</sup> John F. Walvoord, and Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament: An Exposition of the Scripture by Dallas Seminary Faculty* (Colorado Springs: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 32.