

## July 30

**Exodus 20:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Phil found himself in a challenging situation. He had been asked to install a new filtering system in a home. He had an idea as to how to proceed, but he still had questions, so he called his friend Steve, who had far more experience. Steve met with Phil, answering his questions and giving him advice. Next, the two went to the house and did a walk-through. Again, Steve pointed out what would work best as Phil made notes. When they were finished, Phil thanked his friend. As Steve was driving off, he thought, “Why didn’t they call me?” Immediately, Steve heard the Holy Spirit whisper, “So, you want Phil’s blessing?”

Too often we view the Ten Commandments as being part of the old covenant and, thus, we may not consider them current. This commandment states that we are not to covet our neighbor’s house. No problem. Our neighbor’s wife. OK. Our neighbor’s servants. They don’t have any. Our neighbor’s ox or donkey. Again, not a problem. I have never wanted one. Then, the Lord adds “or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” When we become jealous of another’s blessings or gifts or greedy when we want what others have, we are coveting what the Lord has given them. I have found myself in that position before. When comparing ourselves to others, we take our eyes off what the Lord has given us and focus on what He has given others. When we think we have been slighted by Jesus, we fall into coveting our neighbor’s blessings. We are called to build up others, to strengthen them, and to encourage them. Coveting hinders us from doing these. When Steve heard that question, he realized that his blessing was being able to help Phil succeed in his blessing. Instead of wishing he had the job, he was to be joyful for his friend. Each blessing is tailored to fit our hearts and needs so we should not be jealous or covet another’s but, instead, be thankful. Also, another’s blessing never diminishes ours.