

The Ten Commandments - Part 42: You Shall Not Covet - Part 1

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The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/bg4c7d4/the-ten-commandments-part-42>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserving the original context, but this document is **not verbatim**. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

Shabbat shalom, everyone. We are going to hit one of our final milestones today and break into the tenth commandment which says — ¹⁷ You shall not covet, *lo taḥmōd*.

The Lord breaks away from what we have seen in some of the former commandments, actually the last half of these commandments. There's a lot of brevity to His statements in these various commandments. ¹³ You shall not murder, *lo trā-ṣāḥ*, ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery, *lo tna'āp*, and ¹⁵ You shall not steal, *lo tḡanōb*, have only two Hebrew words each. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor, *lo ta'āneh bārē'ākā 'ēd šāqer*, has just five Hebrew words.

So, the Lord deployed a certain amount of brevity in these commandments until you get to the tenth commandment. "Thou shall not covet" is not the entire commandment. "Thou shall not covet" does not express what God was conveying. God conveyed the following:

Exodus 20:17 — 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 (emphasis added).

The Lord was pretty specific and comprehensive. We understand His heartbeat on this particular one. It's almost as if He seemed concerned about where we might take this, so He laid these tracks to keep us in line of what He really meant by "Thou shall not covet," *lo taḥmōd*.

I want to make special note of an aspect of this commandment. This commandment has an intimacy with virtually all the other commandments. It has a connection to all the variety of sins that exist.

I'll explain what I mean. When you think about the sin of adultery, what adulterer goes out without first coveting? King David was on his rooftop and looked upon Uriah's wife. What does this tell us? You are not supposed to covet your neighbor's wife. That's exactly what David did, and that led to adultery.

What thief has ever taken something that didn't belong to him without coveting it first? When a thief sees something, there's a burning desire to have it. It doesn't matter if he didn't buy it or if it's not his; he desires it.

Let me go back to the first commandment and even the second commandment. We are not to have any other gods, but the Lord God. We are not to make any graven images. We have examples in Scripture.

Many times, Israel, the children of God, departed from the God of Israel to worship and serve other gods. What individual has ever done that without first coveting that god and having a burning desire within them to worship that god? The answer is none.

You start to see this incredible connection. There's this intimacy of this commandment. It's the birthplace. You will not do all these other things without first coveting.

I want you to listen to me carefully because this is important. This commandment, like all the other commandments, has its own fingerprint, kind of like its own DNA. This commandment is no exception. It is extremely unique and extremely terrifying. What do I mean by that? I mean the entire parameters of this commandment are drawn around the heart.

Let me explain why that's significant. This commandment is not codependent upon you committing some physical act of sin, which is a true manifestation. This commandment is drawn around the heart and the Holy Spirit judging you. You are being weighed in the balance by what you feel, by what you think, and by your desires. If that doesn't put chills up and down your spine! God knows what's in your heart, and you are being weighed in the balance by who and what you desire. That's what I would call changing your religion.

You can look back on all the civilizations that have existed. We have all these amazing fragments throughout history. You can see all the different laws these secular civilizations had in place, whether it be the Hittites, the Canaanites, the Acadians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, or the Romans. We can read the documents and see the laws they had on the books. You will find laws against stealing, adultery, bearing false witness, and murder. There's a lot within the Ten Commandments that we can see throughout the world at least to a degree, but you will never find a law like this, where you are being judged by the thoughts and desires of your heart. You want to talk about, no pun intended, getting into the heart of the matter!

You can put on your Christian face and present yourself well. You can talk a big game of how big of a follower of Jesus, *Yeshua*, you are. You can conceal the darkness, certain aspects, and certain desires you have. Though nobody else sees it, here's the deal: you are being weighed in the balance. This is where you get humbled and where I get humbled because I know the Spirit has access to the deepest recesses of my heart, the places nobody sees, and He will judge me there. This is as serious as it gets.

I want to unpack this a little bit from the aspect of the Hebrew. The Hebrew word used for covet is *chamad*, which means to desire, to take pleasure in, to delight in, to lust, to love, to covet. You get a really good feel of the trajectory of this word just by all the different descriptors.

Listen to me carefully. One of the most important points I'm going to make today is right now. The word *chamad* in the tenth commandment is used in the negative, *lo taḥmōd*. In Scripture, *chamad* is used both in the positive and in the negative.

Let me unpack this further because this gets even more fascinating the more you dig into this. The law of first mention: the first time *chamad* is used in Scripture, it's explicitly used in the positive. The second time it's used in Scripture, it is explicitly used in the negative. It's fascinating that both of those times are found in the same story. I need you to stay with me on this. Let's go back to the Garden of Eden because this is where they are first found:

Genesis 2:9 — ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant — “pleasant” in Hebrew is *chamad*, the very same term translated “covet” in Exodus 20:17—to the sight and good for food (emphasis added).

Another way to look at this is God made all the trees within the Garden of Eden covetable, meaning they were to be desired. He created Adam and Eve to partake of specific trees in the garden. It's a positive commandment. They were to covet these things that they were to partake in. Only going a little bit further, we are given the negative context, and isn't it interesting? It's explicitly of the tree of knowledge of good and evil:

Genesis 3:6 — ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food — meaning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil — that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable — *chamad*, the word for covet — to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate (emphasis added).

I love how the JPS translates “and a tree desirable to make one wise.” This Jewish translation takes it from the Hebrew to the English, and this is what they say, “and that the tree was to be desired — or you would say coveted — to make one wise.”

Now, take this in. The first time this word is ever found in Scripture, it's explicitly of those trees that Adam and Eve were commanded to eat from. These were the good ones. This was what God wanted them to do.

The second time *chamad* is used, it's of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They weren't supposed to covet this tree, but through the cunning nature and seduction of the serpent, he turned Eve. Now she looked at it in a context that it is to be coveted because of what it had to offer her. This is how the devil set the hook. That is an amazing thing to consider. Why did Eve partake of what was forbidden? Covetousness, not covetousness in general, but specifically coveting that which is forbidden.

This is exactly what the tenth commandment in Exodus 20:17 conveys. The Lord laid out the things you are not to covet, which He has forbidden. Understand, we are in the garden all over again. We are presented two ways: “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil...” (Deuteronomy 30:15). What are you going to covet? Are you going to covet the good? Are you going to covet that which is permissible? Or are you going to desire that which I have forbidden?

I want to read from Psalm 19 because I want to dig into this discussion, not by digging into Exodus 20:17, but by showing you what Scripture says you are called to covet. Just as God conveyed this information in the garden, He conveyed it in the Scripture. This will give us a much broader and better perspective of this entire discussion.

Psalm 19:7a — David said — ^{7a} The law of the Lord is perfect, *ṭamîmāh*,

The Hebrew word *ṭamîmāh* means pure, without blemish. I think of what Peter said —¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:18-19). Without blemish is how the Word who became flesh is described. The law of the Lord is described the same way, without blemish, *ṭamîmāh*. If the law of God, the Torah, His instructions, His Commandments are from His heart and it describes His character and His nature, I

would expect to read that it's perfect, without blemish. But as David continued, he didn't just lay out this great description of the law being perfect, David declared its power. Listen to what he said:

Psalms 19:7 — ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, **converting the soul**; The testimony of the LORD is **sure, making wise the simple** (emphasis added).

Psalms 19:7a — ^{7a}The law of the LORD is perfect, **converting the soul**, *māšīḇaṭ nāpēš* (emphasis added).

Māšīḇaṭ refers to someone who had their back to God and walked away from Him. They rebelled against God and wanted nothing to do with Him. Once they hear the law, the Word of God, they are cut to the heart. Because the fear of the Lord comes in like a flood into their heart, they are convicted and turn back to the face of the Lord to become His servant, seek Him with their whole heart, and receive His instructions. The person will stop doing things his way and start doing them God's way. That's the power of the law. It converts us, bringing us back to the Lord.

Psalms 19:7b — ^{7b}The testimony, *ʿē·dūt* — specifically refers to the Ten Commandments — **of the Lord is sure, ne'ēmānāh** (emphasis added).

Ne'ēmānāh can be translated as believes, believe or believed. The first time you find the word *ne'ēmānāh* is in Genesis 15. The Lord told Abraham He would make his descendants as the stars of the sky. Next, we read in Genesis 15:6 — ⁶And Abraham believed, *ne'ēmānāh*, the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

The Septuagint translates this as faithful. We are told the Ten Commandments are faithful. I would expect it to be described as faithful if it is truly of God because Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:13—¹³If we are faithless, He remains faithful. His Word is faithful. It cannot fail. We can trust the Ten Commandments, the *Aseret ha-D'varim*.

Psalms 19:7c — ^{7c}making wise the simple (emphasis added).

This is where we draw more power. This is where we grow and get strength to fight against the most formidable enemy ever known in the history of humanity. We need this, right?

If you look at this statement alone and the Hebrew word, *ne'ēmānāh*, you could read it this way: the testimony of the Lord is believed, therefore the simple are made wise. When we believe in the Ten Commandments, we gain the wisdom of the living God because you won't win this war on your own. You will not outsmart the adversary. The enemy will have you so deceived and so wrapped up in one lie after another, you won't know up from down. We need His Word. So, David was bringing out the power of His Word.

Psalms 19:8 — ⁸The statutes of the LORD are right — look at this — **rejoicing the heart . . .** (emphasis added). David said you will bring joy into your heart by taking the Word in.

I want joy, but you know what? Paul said — ¹⁰. . . the sorrow of the world produces death (2 Corinthians 7:10). If you want depression, anxiety, or fear, covet the things of the world and chase after them. There is a reason that no matter how many drugs the rock stars and movie stars take or how much sexual immorality they commit, it's never enough. Who knew the Rolling Stones were great philosophers among us in these days. They recorded a song titled, "I Can't Get No Satisfaction." Think about how the

song lyrics started with, “I can’t get no satisfaction ‘cause I try, and I try, and I try.”

The only way to be truly satisfied is through Yeshua. There is no other way. Without Yeshua, all you will be left with is pain, suffering, hopelessness, and agony, and at the end, it'll get way worse.

Psalm 19:8—⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure** — are you ready for the power — **enlightening the eyes** (emphasis added).

The blind can now see! Do you know how important that is? Hebrews 4:12 says—¹² **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and the intents of the heart** — the very place where all this covetousness takes place and the very place it is judged. We don't have to physically carry something out; we are judged in our heart. We need His commandments. We need His Word, and our heart and our eyes will be opened.

I remember the first time I read through the Torah; I had a perspective of myself that I was doing pretty good. I really was, and, yes, I was seeking Jesus with all my heart; that's all I wanted. But as I kept turning page after page, I knew I was in trouble. I was not the guy I thought I was because there was blindness. Only His words lifted the veil upon my eyes. The only time you will see yourself through the eyes of the Lord is when you get His Word and His commandments.

The devil does not want you to see yourself through the eyes of the Lord. He wants you to be deceived. He has piled up deception and lies in your life. He has been telling you lies over and over again. You believe them because you are not reading the Word, and you have not allowed His words to come into your heart. If you are believing the lie, that is scary.

On the heels of the power of the Word opening our eyes and the blind now seeing, Paul said this: Romans 7:7 — ⁷ **What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”** (Emphasis added.)

When Paul said, **“I would not have known sin except through the law,”** he could have picked any commandment as an example, but he grabbed covetousness. Why? Because this is the one sin you can hide from everyone and put in the deep recesses of your heart. Yet, the Lord Himself, through His Word, tells you He will weigh you in the balance to know whether you are faithful to Him in your heart. Do you desire the Lord or the world?

Paul's statement is profound. Paul is saying your eyes will be opened. He wouldn't have truly understood covetousness without the law because the philosophy of the world is that you can think something in your mind that is not okay as long as you don't act on it. You can commit all the sexual immorality you want in your mind, gentlemen, as long as you don't act on it. And let me be clear: that's not me saying that. That is the world's concept that you are a good person. I'm telling you, right now, you are being weighed in the balance on what you entertain and what you desire in your heart. That is frightening.

Exodus 23:8 — Look at this — ⁸ **And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous** (emphasis added). This is about wise men with discernment who cross the line and accept a bribe. Why would they accept a bribe? Covetousness. Their desire is not the

Lord's desire. Their heart is not the heart of the Lord. When someone who is wise and discerning crosses the line and does not heed the Word, “**you shall not covet, lo ṭahmōd,**” this man with great vision becomes totally blind.

Let's go back to Psalm 19:8—⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes** (emphasis added).

Now, we are coming to the crescendo. This is the whole reason I brought you to this passage. Listen to what he said next: Psalms 19:10 — ¹⁰ **More to be — what — desired — chamad, coveted — are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb** (emphasis added).

We are called to covet and desire His commandments just as in the Garden of Eden. The first thing they were told was to covet His commandments. What God had created to be received was to be the desire in their heart.

I love what the psalmist in Psalm 119:71 said — ⁷¹ **It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.** ⁷² **The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.**

Why do we keep talking about gold and silver? What does the world covet? Earthly wealth. We are called to covet the exact opposite. We are called to covet that which is eternal. We are called to covet the heart of Yeshua. As we look at this commandment, “**You shall not covet,**” it means you shall not covet those things forbidden by God, period. Does that make sense? I hope you are following me.

I want to introduce you to a story in the book of Joshua. I don't want to see men fail, but when we read stories where men have failed, it is a prolific teaching tool. As you know, Paul said — ⁴ **For whatever things were written before were written for our learning** (Romans 15:4). We have so much to glean through these examples that have been preserved. We have a great example in Joshua 7. There's a lot embedded within this story that we can draw from. It's a beautiful thing, so let's go to:

Joshua 6:18-19 — This is where we will begin — ¹⁸ **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.**

The backdrop here is that God has brought Israel across the Jordan and into the promised land. The first city they are going to take down is Jericho, which is an impenetrable, double walled military fortress. The Lord told them that when you take Jericho (because He's going to give it to them) not to touch the silver and gold. He put an ixnay on that. So, Israel took Jericho, and then we read: Joshua 7:1—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** (emphasis added).

The Lord warned the children of Israel not to touch these things, but Achan did not listen to God's instruction. He ignored it. And guess what? The Lord was spitting mad. One of the scariest parts of this story is that God didn't communicate His horrible anger with Joshua. He didn't tell Joshua He was spitting mad. If He had, Joshua would have had everyone prostrate themselves and try to make intercession like Moses and Aaron would do. God didn't convey His anger. Israel would find out about His anger the hard way. That's what's so scary about this story.

Joshua 7:2-3—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** (emphasis added).”

Israel was coming off, what I would call, a prolific high, and rightfully so. God just gave them an impenetrable military fortress that Israel had no chance of taking, but the divine power of God came down and shook the walls. If you’ve been to Jericho, you know that the way those walls were shook, they fell out and created stairs, so Israel’s men of war could climb into Jericho and take it. Israel was coming off this incredible military victory where they experienced the power of God.

Then spies went into this little, tiny city of Ai, one of the weakest and most pathetic in all of Israel. When the spies returned, they said not to send all the men. Keep in mind, there were over 600,000 men of war. The spies told Joshua to send about two or three thousand men. The spies probably thought, “This is pathetic. It’s not even worth thinking about. The inhabitants are few. It’s not fortified. We will just steamroll this, especially since we just had this prolific victory, where the power of God was to our back and in our front. Nobody can stand against us.” This is where they were at, not recognizing the whole time God was in heaven fuming. So, what happened? They went to battle with Ai, and the inhabitants of Ai cut Israel down. Israel ran for their life with their backs to their enemies.

The hearts of Israel melted. Melted before nobody. They couldn't stand in front of the weakest of the weak in all the land. They couldn't do it because of the anger of the Lord. In response to this great and unexpected defeat, Joshua tore his clothes and cried out to the Lord, “**Why have you brought us over the Jordan at all?**” Joshua wondered why the Lord would allow the weakest and most pathetic to come against them. Joshua asked the Lord, “**What shall I to say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?**” The Lord responded. Listen to this amazing statement:

Joshua 7:10-12a — ¹⁰ So the LORD said to Joshua, *Yahushua*, “Get up! — usually it's get down on your knees, worship me, prostrate, pray to me, but the Lord's done with this and says to get up — **Why do you lie thus on your face?** ¹¹ **Israel has sinned** — This is the problem. Sin is in the camp — **and they have also transgressed My covenant** — specifically the *Aseret ha-D'varim*, the Ten Commandments — **which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both** — look at this— **stolen and deceived** — you’ve stolen, you've lied —**and they have also put it among their own stuff.** ^{12a} **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** (emphasis added).

Do you understand this is what happens when you allow sin in the camp? Do you understand the destructive dark power the enemy has? Even the weakest of your foes will have total power over you, and Israel experienced this. When you read these stories, you realize God is not messing around when it comes to sin. God takes His Word very seriously, so when you don't keep it, His anger rages.

The Lord didn't stop there. He took it a step further. He went after Joshua, His personal leader, who had the anointing of Moses, *Moshe*, on him. He said:

Joshua 7:12b —^{12b} **Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you** (emphasis added).

Joshua, *Yahushua*, son of Nun, was one of the greatest men that ever lived, and God told him point-blank that if he didn't straighten this out and get the sin out of the camp, He was done with him.

Put that into context with us today. Think about how the Lord threatened an individual with the highest quality of character like Joshua, *Yahushua*, with "I'm gone if you don't take care of the sin." Satan wants you to belabor the point. Satan doesn't want you to attack your sins. He doesn't want you to deal with your problems. He wants you to cover them, so he can own you, and you can be his slave. He will destroy you; he will gut you. He will put you through unimaginable pain and suffering. You will move farther and farther away from the Lord. Yeshua will not be at your right hand; Yeshua will be your enemy. You can't talk like this today. You can't talk about the reality of sin today. It's offensive to the church.

As for me and my house, we will fear the Lord. I believe these stories. I believe the heart and character of God. I know how God responds to sin, and it's not pretty.

How did Joshua, *Yahushua*, respond? Immediately, with the fear of God he opened an investigation. He hunted down the perpetrator, and we pick the story up here:

Joshua 7:19-21 — ¹⁹ Now Joshua, *Yahushua* said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide *it* from me." ²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, *Yahushua*, 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 (emphasis added)."

All the hell that Israel went through; all the men that died in battle; all the hearts that melted because they couldn't even defeat the weakest of the weak; all the pain and the suffering of the people; all the weeping of the families of the 36 men that were struck down; all stem from this sin! All of it began with coveting!

If you think this is insignificant and you can hide this stuff in your heart, and nothing magnificent will come out of it (I say that in the negative context), you are deceived. Look at this story. It all started with coveting, and the Lord unleashed hell. We can't think for a moment it will be different with us.

This is what Satan has convinced the Christian Church. It drives me bananas because Satan has convinced Christians that when you sin today (if, at all, you can define it as sin), it's not a big deal because Yeshua took that at the cross. What happens is people become more emboldened to sin. They think, "It's not a big deal. We are under grace. Let's just do this."

Nothing I read in Scripture allows for that narrative. Nothing. In fact, it's the opposite. In the book of Acts, we are told— ³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). In other words, after Yeshua came, repentance is more necessary, and sin is more grave because now you are insulting the Spirit of grace. It is worse to sin in our generation than in the generations before the Messiah was revealed, pure and simple. That's what the New Testament alludes to.

So, it's the exact opposite, yet the devil has flipped the narrative upside down, and now it's a free-for-all. I'm going to make a bold statement: If you grab the desires of the world and allow covetousness, and you truly, according to Scripture, fall short in this area, you have officially put the devil on the throne of your heart. You are selling your soul to the devil through covetousness. You can hide it, but the Lord sees what you are doing. I want to show you the payment: Joshua 7:25— ²⁵ **And Joshua, Yahushua, 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 the stones** (emphasis added).

Burned him in the fire. Do you know the wicked are the ones that get burned. The wicked are to be incinerated. This is a picture of the Lake of Fire. And why did this happen? because he coveted.

You may believe the lie on top of the lie that you are not such a bad person and Daniel's not such a bad person, but here's the deal: if I desire in my heart the worldly things, the things Satan Himself loves, and lift Satan up into the throne of my heart, make no mistake, I will never see the kingdom of God. Let me support that statement:

Ephesians 5:3 — ³ **But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness** — again, this is not about a physical manifestation; this is your heart — **let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints** (emphasis added).

Ephesians 5:5 — 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** (emphasis added).

We are going to circle back for a moment to the beginning of this series. As we opened up, we talked about idolatry. We discussed Colossians 3:5, where Paul explicitly identified covetousness as the sin of idolatry. Idolatry is covetousness. That creates an inclusio. The Ten Commandments are an inclusio. All that means is they are a pair of bookends. This is a device where the first commandment relates to idolatry, and the tenth commandment relates to idolatry, and everything in between relates to those statements. Everything in the middle of it is ultimately idolatry.

Paul said that anyone who is covetous is an idolater. If you are coveting the things of the world like success or seeking acceptance from the world because you'd rather receive the praises of men than the praises of God, you are covetous. You are an idolater. What idolater do you know is getting into the kingdom of heaven? I don't know of any. Then Paul said this, and I love this:

Ephesians 5:6— ⁶ **Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience** (emphasis added).

You cannot accept the desires of the world. You have to fight them. The enemy will try to pump his thoughts into your head all day long. We have the power to take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ. The moment you stop doing that and embrace the desires of the world and meditate on the things that are wicked, like how you can get further in the world and get more stuff, rather than embracing and meditating on the things of Yeshua, you are in trouble.

Jeremiah, chapter 6, reflects our generation. What Jeremiah was experiencing, we are experiencing right now. We are in parallel worlds.

Jeremiah 6:10 — ¹⁰ **To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Indeed their ear is**

uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed. **Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; they have no delight in it** (emphasis added).

They hate the commandments. They will not receive them. They can be really sophisticated and say, “I appreciate that. I believe it.” They may even tell you, “I believe in the commandments,” but they don't do them. They may even tell themselves, “I'm keeping all these. These are amazing,” but inside their heart, they have sin. They have bitterness and anger. They meditate on sexual immoral thoughts all day. They've been taken captive and don't realize they are a full-fledged idolater. This is this generation.

Jeremiah 6:11-13—¹¹ **Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD. I am weary of holding it in. “I will pour it out on the children outside, and on the assembly of young men together; for even the husband shall be taken with the wife, the aged with *him who is* full of days. ¹² And their houses shall be turned over to others, fields and wives together; for I will stretch out My hand against the inhabitants of the land,” says the LORD** — Hell is coming. It's as though these words were written for this country. Then we get to the point — ¹³ **Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, *everyone is given to covetousness*; and from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely** (emphasis added).

All of them. The eyes of the Lord went to and fro. He looked into their hearts and minds. We know from Jeremiah 17 and from Revelation 2, you cannot hide your thoughts from God. An entire generation was judged because they gave their hearts to the devil. All things the devil values became their value system in their hearts.

They went to church. They went up to the temple and sang the praises to God. They sacrificed to Yahweh. They said that they were under grace and no harm would come to them. Do you see the insane delusion and covetousness? They couldn't even see it. They were blind because a bribe blinds the eyes. That covetousness came in, and they were totally blind. They didn't believe the wrath of God would ever come. Of course, the false prophets were out on the front lines singing peace, peace.

It's appropriate we revisit Ezekiel 14 because we briefly looked at it when we discussed idolatry.

Ezekiel 14:3 — ³ **Son of man, *these men have set up their idols in their hearts* — these are not physical idols. They created idols, love of the world, covetousness, in their heart — *and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity* — now listen to what the Lord says — **Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?** (emphasis added).**

It's a rhetorical question. The Lord will not receive your prayer when you have covetousness in your heart. Do you want to know why your prayer life suffers and there is no power and there's nothing happening? Don't wonder. The quickest way to destroy your prayer life is to allow the desires of the world to come into your heart.

This speaks to me on so many volumes because I value prayer so much, but you know what? If I value prayer, but hold this garbage in my heart, I have nothing. I have no connection to God, and therefore there's nothing. All I have is deception and a hope of eternal damnation.

The further we get into this and the more we look at Scripture, the more hatred you need to have for the ways of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. You should be running the other direction, despising it, knowing what it does. The devil knows what it does. The devil loves that it separates you from the Lord, so he can abuse, deceive, and torture you all day long. Get

covetousness out! It's betraying the heart of God.

Ezekiel 14:4 — ⁴ “Therefore speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: **“Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet** — They were coming to the prophet because guess what? They needed to speak to the Lord. They were seeking the Lord — **I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols** (emphasis added).

In other words, He will respond to your prayer with vengeance and unleash unimaginable hell. Look at the story of Achan! Look at Jeremiah and the outcome of what God did when He brought Babylonians in and cut them down. God's not playing when it comes to this.

And in modern day times, Christians present themselves to the Lord and say, “I need to hear a word of the Lord. I need to seek the Lord.” Yet, they come to Him with betrayal and with an adulterous heart because they have set up idols in their heart. So, their love of money or material possessions are idols. You are an idolater, and you want the Lord to respond to you? You will lose your prayer life. You will lose your connection to God. You will potentially lose your whole life.

Ezekiel 14:8 — ⁸ **I will set my face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb** — How scary and how frightening the anger of the Lord is. He's going to turn people who have embraced covetousness into proverbs — **and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.**

This reminds me of Leviticus 10:3 — ³ **By those who come near me I must be regarded as holy.** If you are coming to the Lord with covetousness in your heart, I'm telling you, you do not know Him. You have no idea what you are doing. The devil loves it. That's exactly what the devil wants you to do. He wants you to take all of who he is and set it up in your heart, then call on the name of the Lord because the devil knows that will not work out very well for you.

In 1741, Jonathan Edwards gave his first message, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” in his own church in Northampton, Massachusetts. When he gave the message, there was no response at all. He preached the same message in Enfield, Connecticut and revival broke out. The Spirit of God fell. The Word of God was given. People heard the message and were terrified. To this day, this is considered one of most influential moments for stirring revival in the history of America. The fear of God fell upon all sorts of Americans. They repented and were terrified with a holy fear. I want to give you a couple snippets of what he said:

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards — **Almost every natural Man that hears of Hell, flatters himself that he shall escape it;** There is not a person in this room that at some point in their life wasn't totally deceived believing this. This is why there is Matthew 7 where you have millions upon millions of Christians sitting at Judgment Day flattering themselves, “There's no way I will be going to hell. I spent time talking to people about Jesus. I spread the gospel. I ministered in His name. I prophesied. I did many wonders in His name.” And the response will be the response we see in Ezekiel 14 and Jeremiah 6. He will cast these people into hell.

He goes on: Counter 52.19 *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* by Jonathan Edwards—**O Sinner! Consider the fearful Danger you are in: Tis a great Furnace of Wrath, a wide and bottomless Pit, full of the fire of Wrath, that you are held over in the Hand of that God, whose Wrath is provoked and incensed**

as much against you as against many of the Damned in Hell; Unbelievable! Jonathan preached this in the 1700s. He knew how to bring the Word. I'm not surprised revival would break out from a message that puts the fear of God in people because revival is turning away from your sins, grabbing hold of Yeshua with everything you got, and not looking back.

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards — **You hang by a slender Thread, with the Flames of divine Wrath flashing about it.** Think about just hanging by the thread. It doesn't take but just a little bit of heat to cut that thread, and it's over. As I look at what's going on, this country's hanging by a thread. Let me close with this thought:

Psalms 119:36a — The psalmist said — ^{36a} **Incline my heart to Your testimonies . . .** Psalm 51:10 — You know David prayed — ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart.** We are called to pray the heart of the Lord and the will of God for our lives. The psalmist prayed, "Lord, I want Your testimonies." Where? In his heart. He prayed, "Incline my heart to receive Your word. I want your word in my heart."

And of course, we know Psalm 119:105 — ¹⁰⁵ **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.** That's what it is. There's power; it illuminates; now, I can see.

Going to Psalm 119:9 — ⁹ **How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.** This is how you do it. Get His word and His commandments in your heart, and let it do its work.

This kind of goes back to what Paul said in Romans 7:7 — It's just peculiar, since he grabbed that one commandment — ⁷ **... I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."**

Psalms 119:36 — Here the psalmist said — ³⁶ **Incline my heart to Your testimonies** — plural — **, and not to covetousness** (emphasis added). Isn't that amazing, as this spans the entirety of it all and plurality. That is an amazing thought. I want Your instructions. I don't want lies, the deceptions, or the love of the world.

With that said, we will pray.