

Covetousness is the mother of all sin

The dictionary definition of “covetousness” is “grasping for more.”

This is the sin of selfishness. You’re never content, “An ancient sin dogging the steps of modern man.”

A story is told of a peasant who murmured to a giant landholder of the unfairness of it all. Knowing the nature of men, the landholder promised to give the peasant all the land he could walk around in a whole day. The peasant, greedily trying to take in all the area possible, overexerted himself and dropped with a heart attack and died. He ended up with nothing.

I would like for us to notice something about covetousness:

The sin of covetousness

{(What Is It?)}

In the first chapter of Romans, Paul tells us that the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. He tells us that men are filled with all manner of wickedness and corruption. Then he lists some sins. Among the many foul sins listed, covetousness is near the top.

Achan, the man who brought judgment upon Joshua’s army, committed this sin. The Lord told Covetousness is the mother of all sins. The first 9 of the commandments are rooted in it.

It is an excessive desire for something you don’t have. There’s nothing wrong with wanting certain things, like something better for your family, etc. But this is an excessive desire that compromises convictions to gain something you want. It is also an envious desire for what someone else has...desiring what they have to be yours.

The other commandments deal with actions, but this sin is with attitude. The others are about behavior, but this one is about our mind. “Don’t steal” says keep your hands off. “Don’t Covet” says don’t even think about it!

Aman worshipped his sports car. One day he let his wife drive it . That night she told him it wouldn't run because there was water in the carburetor. He said, you don't know the carburetor from the tail pipe...where is the car? In the neighbor's swimming pool!

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Eve coveted the fruit and it's still stuck in man's throat today! Lot coveted the best land, and mankind is still fighting over that land today! Judas coveted 30 pieces of silver resulting not only in the Savior's death, but his own death! Ananias and Sapphira also died because of it.

A sin we need to take seriously!

Ephesians 5:5

For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

It's a sin to be saved from.

Covetousness where Does It Come From?

Jesus said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness . . ." (Mark 7:21, 22).

Ezekiel cried out, (Ezek. 33:31) "...with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness"

Ahab, the wicked king of Israel, one day saw Naboth's vineyard. He coveted it and approached Naboth about selling it. Because it was an inheritance, it could not be sold. Ahab pouted and sulked until Jezebel, the wicked-hearted queen, cooked up a scheme to have Naboth killed. The moment he was dead, Ahab rose up and took possession of Naboth's vineyard. His covetousness led to stealing and murder. Elijah came to the vineyard and announced to Ahab, "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine" (I Kings 21:19).

There are still a lot of Ahabs around, but their sin will find them out, also.

He needed a heart change, and so do we today. The heart of the problem is the human heart! We need to find contentment in Christ.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

If not, then we face...

Where Does covetousness lead? A successful businessman and his friends were talking and laughing together and enjoying success. The businessman told of his childhood of poverty. Someone had given him a big coin. To have a coin was rare for children then, and his little sister begged to hold it. He laughed over the memory of all the chores he could get her to do for him just to get to hold the coin. He told of a day when she minded the cows all day for the privilege of holding the coin, only to have to give it up at the end of the day. All of the men laughed again at the childishness of the sister.

Just then, one man not laughing, reminded the businessman that all he was doing now in labor and service was for the privilege of holding onto a few possessions. "The end of the day is coming, and you will have to give them up like your little sister did."

That is exactly how it is with all of us. Jesus warned,

(Matt. 6:19,20) "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven . . .".