

THE TEN

COMMANDMENTS

THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

SERMON NOTES

Week 10 October 22, 2023

“Contentment: Do Not Covet”

Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21; Romans 7:7-8, 13:8-10;

Luke 12:15; Psalm 107:1; I Thessalonians 5:18;

Philippians 4:12-13; Matthew 6:25, 32-33



I. Introduction / Review

- A. The opposite of _____ is to covet.
- B. The Ten Commandments form _____ to protect us from harm and guidepost to point us in the right path.
- C. The tenth commandment: “Do not _____.”

II. Covetousness in the Old Testament

- A. There are two different words used for “covet” in the _____ scriptures.
- B. *Chamad* – strongly desires something.
- C. *Avah* – craving.
- D. The word ‘_____’ first appears in the Bible in Genesis 2 and 3 with the story of Adam and Eve’s temptation with the forbidden fruit.

III. Covetousness in the New Testament

- A. The Greek word *Pleonexia* is translated as covet in the New Testament. *Pleonexia* means the desire to have more _____.
- B. Jesus says life does not consist in an abundance of _____.

IV. The Keys to contentment

- A. _____ is the first key to contentment and an antidote for coveting.
- B. _____ is the second key to contentment and an antidote for coveting.
- C. _____ is the final key to contentment and an antidote for coveting.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE October 23-28, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The tenth commandment warns us not to covet. Coveting in the Hebrew Scriptures is defined as strongly desiring something; and in the New Testament as the desire to have more constantly. We all struggle with coveting in our lives. We all want the latest stuff and what our neighbors have that we don't have. We convince ourselves that if we just had more stuff our lives would be better. However, Jesus tells us our lives do not consist in an abundance of possessions.

Monday: Exodus 20:17, Deuteronomy 19:14 (Do not "desire" any of your neighbor's stuff)

It's not a sin to admire someone else's nice things (or relationships). But have you ever found admiration turning into an almost obsessive wish that you could have something (or someone) who "belongs" with someone else? How can that damage you and others, even if you don't act on it? In what ways has God helped you learn to pull away from that kind of excessive, destructive wanting?

Tuesday: Micah 2:1-2, 1 Kings 21:1-16 (Wanting your neighbor's property)

Jezebel chose, and Ahab agreed with, violating last week's study about false witness. Naboth hadn't "cursed God and king." He died for no reason except that Ahab wanted to add Naboth's vineyard to his (likely many) royal lands. But Ahab wouldn't have violated the 9th commandment if he hadn't given in to his inner yearning for Naboth's land. In what ways does his story help to show how the Tenth commandment identifies the inner spiritual state that lies behind almost all violations of the commandments?

Wednesday: Psalm 73:2-14, 21-23 (Envyng others)

For this psalmist, "the prosperity of the wicked" nearly caused him to give up faith in God. But envy can also strike when we compare ourselves to any others who seem to have more than we do (see Mark 10:35-41). At what times in your life, if any, has the "success" of the wicked led you to ask, "Does the Most High know anything?" (verse 11). Whose position, possessions or prospects do you envy? How much does it matter to you how you or others reach "success"?

Thursday: Matthew 6:25-33, 22:34-40 (Desire God's Kingdom)

People widely used the phrase "the law and the prophets" in Jesus' day to mean all of the Hebrew Scriptures. How can Jesus' statement of the "greatest commandments" guide you in understanding the core message of the Old Testament writings, including the Ten Commandments?

Friday: Romans 7:7-12 (The Tenth Commandment and Paul)

In Romans 7, Paul said the tenth commandment showed him that he needed a Savior, no matter how proud he was of his Pharisaic outward righteousness. When have you had moments of insight into things that needed to change inside you?

MOVING FORWARD

The Ten Commandments form guardrails to protect us from harm and guideposts to point us in the right path. The tenth commandment warns us not to covet and Jesus points us toward the opposite of covetousness which is contentment. The keys to live a life of contentment are gratitude, generosity and love. When we can love God fully and love our neighbor as ourselves we find the good and beautiful life.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) IA) contentment, B) guardrails, C) covet. IIA) Hebrew, IIB) chamad. IIIA) constantly, B) possessions. IVA) Gratitude, B) Generosity, C) Love.