

# The Ten

## Coveting: The Catch-All Commandment- Session #8

### Small Group Notes

#### Introduction:

Name something you want that you don't have. Deep down, why do you want that thing? Has there been any person to influence you to have it?

When do we often say it is acceptable to want something you don't have? When is it wrong?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how content would you say you are right now in the following areas and explain your answer: work, family, marriage/dating life, spiritual walk.

#### Discuss:

##### 1. The Catch-All Commandment

- We must realize the cause (root) of our problem...our heart. Read Exodus 20:17-21.
  - o Coveting may or may not lead to an act, but even if there is not act, it is still wrong. Read James 4:1-3.
- All coveting is evil.
  - o Original sin involved coveting. Read Genesis 3:1-6.
  - o Coveting is choosing Satan's side. Read James 3:13-18.
- The Consequences of Coveting. Read James 1:14-15.
  - o We are condemned for our desires.

Explain: Coveting refers to selfishly desiring something at the expense of others. It begins with a dissatisfaction about what we have and a belief that we are entitled to more. The root of coveting begins at our heart's desires. Jen Wilkin explains it as, "No one ever set out to sin against God or neighbor without first desiring something out of bounds. Covetousness and contempt hold hands, for no one ever sought to take from God or neighbor without first desiring to diminish them. Covetousness is a personal offense." (*Ten Words to Live By*)

Ask:

**What have you seen that you are most likely to covet: stuff, relationships, or circumstances?**

**Compared to a child taking another child's toy, what other modern-day examples of coveting do we see today?**

**How have you seen your heart lead you astray? What are the implications of trying to justify coveting with the pursuit of contentment?**

## 2. Overcoming coveting practically

- Prepare for covetousness before it happens. Read Luke 12: 13-21.
- Realize that this command is for both the have's and have-not's
- Grow in contentment.
  - o We must pray for contentment. Read Proverbs 30:7-9
  - o We must work hard at contentment. Philippians 4:11-13
- Look out for the big three: stuff, relationships, circumstances: Read Luke 12:17 again.
- Practical ways to help with coveting:
  - o Stop
  - o Look. Matthew 6: 21
  - o Think: Philippians 4:8
  - o Thanksgiving: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Explain: Coveting often leads to the breaking of other Commandments. Rather than work for what we want, we steal it. We remove competition to get what we want. Being thankful for what we have helps us keep God first in life and live-in harmony with others. Furthermore, the substance of one's life is not to be measured in the abundance of possessions. Even "he who dies with the most toys" still dies, and the toys are left behind. While many people succumb to the seduction of materialism, they soon realize that even an abundance of possessions cannot satisfy the human heart. The call for contentment leads us to see God's blessings and grace that are sufficient and can even be used as ways to further the gospel to others!

Ask:

**How is this message regarding coveting so necessary in this season of our lives?**

**How might examining the greed and jealousy in our hearts help us gauge our spiritual health?**

**How does Christ change transform our obedience to the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment?**