

Lord, Change My Attitude Of Covetousness

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Four dimensions of covetousness:

1. Covetousness is wanting the wrong things .
2. Covetousness is wanting right things for wrong reasons .
3. Covetousness is wanting the right things at the wrong time .
4. Covetousness is wanting the right things in the wrong amount .

Covetousness is sin because:

1. Covetousness comes from the heart (Mk. 7:21-22).
2. A covetous person is an idolater (Ep. 5:5).

3 Steps To Wilderness Living (Numbers 11)

Step 1: Covetousness becomes sin when we yield .

When we dwell on our desire, yielding is only a matter of time .

At the root of covetousness is a rejection of God's sufficiency .

Step 2: In time we may hate what we had have .

Step 3: To a covetous person, enough is never enough .

The penalty of covetousness is desolation ,
destruction , and death .

Discussion questions

1. Which part of the lesson did you find helpful, encouraging or particularly applicable to your life?

Are the author's four dimensions of covetousness useful and helpful to you?

Does our Lord's teaching in Matt 6:20-21 encourages you?

Have been on the 3 Steps to Wilderness Living in your life?

2. Read Ps. 52: 7; Ep. 5:5, and 1Tim. 6: 9-10

Why do you think God hates covetousness? Give reasons.

A covetous person lacks faith for he is telling God that he needs more than God to be happy. He needs material things created by men. In a sense he is worshipping the created instead of the Creator. A covetous person violates the first two commandments. Covetousness is the foundation of many sins such as murder, adultery, stealing, etc.

3. From the story of the Israelites in Numbers Chapter 11, what can we learn about:

A) The attitude of the Israelites

They focus on what they do not have, instead of what they have (blessings: manna, water, presence of God in the form of the cloud that guide and protect them day and night in the harsh desert).

They tend to complain among themselves instead of bringing their complains to God. Contrast Moses' prayer to God (Num 11:11-14)

Enough is never enough.

B) The character of God

Righteous and just; sinners must be punished (Num 11:1)

Merciful (Num 11:2); compassionate (Num 11: 16- 17)

Provident God (Num 11: 18)

God of Wrath (Num 11:10, 19-20, 33)

Almighty God (Num 11:31)

4. Is this coveting? Yes or No, please give your reasons.

I see my neighbor has a new car. From his choice of the model to the color of the interior, I love it! As I walk back to my house, I think, I wish I could afford a new car. But I really cannot right now. Oh well. When I can, that is the car I want.

More of anything, other than God will never fill that longing for fulfillment that He has placed within us. Only God can give us that fulfillment in our life. We are never satisfied for long with material things.