

LORD, CHANGE
MY ATTITUDE
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Based on book of same title by James MacDonald

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Recap of Previous Lessons

- > Attitudes are pattern of thinking formed over a long period of time.
- > We choose our attitude.
- > Complaining is a sin.
- > Be thankful in every situations.
- > Thankfulness is a decision based on reality.
- > Thankfulness is life-changing

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Today's Lesson

Replacing A Covetous Attitude

It's Not Easy:

- ◆ Self denial
- ◆ It's something we wink at
- ◆ We are drowning in a "Sea of Materialism"

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A Sea of Materialism

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What Is Covetousness?

Webster Dictionary:

Covetous is marked by inordinate, unrestraint desire for wealth or possessions, or for another's possessions. Having a craving for possessions.

Syn. with greedy, grasping, avaricious and acquisitive.

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Four Dimensions of Covetousness

Covetousness is wanting:

1. The wrong things
2. The right things for the wrong reasons
3. The right things at the wrong time
4. The right things in the wrong amount

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According To Scripture: Covetousness Is Sin

The Tenth Commandment

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor." Ex. 20:17 (NIV)

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Because

1. Covetousness comes from the heart.

"For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evil come from inside and make a man unclean." Mk 7:21-22 NIV

2. A covetous person is an idolater.

"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." Ep. 5:5 KJV.

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The Scripture Warned

"Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" Luke 12:15 KJV

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."
1 Tim 6:9 KJV

Read also Isaiah 57:17, Eph. 5:5, James 4: 1- 3 and Col. 3:5

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3 Steps To Wilderness Living

A Life Of:

Desolation
Destruction
Death

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Step 1: Yielding to Covetousness And Why God Hates It

Covetousness Becomes Sin When We Yield

First It Enters The Heart

"The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost – also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic" Numbers 11: 4-5 NIV

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires" Romans 8:5a NIV

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Step 1: Yielding To Covetousness And Why God Hates It

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

Covetousness inflates the desire and ignores the danger

"But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" Numbers 11: 6 NIV

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Step 1: Yielding To Covetousness And Why God Hates It

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

"Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent. The Lord became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled."
Numbers 11:10 NIV

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Step 2: A Gift From God You Don't Want

Be careful of what we ask from God

"Tell the people: 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you eat meat. The Lord heard you when you wailed, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will eat it.'" Numbers 11: 18 NIV

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Step 2: A Gift From God You Don't Want

In Time We May Hate What We Had To Have

"You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, but for a whole month – until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it – because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and you have wailed before Him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?" Numbers 11: 18-20 NIV

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Step 3: The Consequences Of Covetousness

To a covetous person, enough is never enough

"Now a wind went out from the Lord and drove quail in from the sea. It brought them down all around the camp to about three feet above the ground, as far as a day's walk in any direction. All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten homers. Then they spread them out all around the camp." Numbers 11: 31-32 NIV

What our Lord teaches: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matt 6:19-21 NIV

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Step 3: The Consequences Of Covetousness

The Penalty is Desolation, Destruction and Death

"But while the meat was still between teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the Lord burned against the people, and He struck them with a severe plague. Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food"
Numbers 11:33 NIV


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Scriptural Examples of Covetous Men


- Achan replied. "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done. When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels. I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath." Josh 7:20-22 NIV
- Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, "My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him." 2 Kings 5:20.
- Read also the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11

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21st Century Examples of Covetous Men


 **Bernard Madoff faces 150 years prison**
Head of Fund Invested in Madoff Is Found Dead

 **Sir Allen Stanford in hands of FBI**

 **For Ken Lay, Enron's Riches Turning to Ruin**
Enron Founder, Awaiting Prison, Dies in Colorado

China cracks down on graft

 **Tianjin official sacked for graft**

 Shenzhen mayor Xu Zongheng (left) was placed under internal Communist Party investigation earlier this month for 'serious violations of discipline'. -- PHOTO: AFP

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Up Close And Personal

1. Am I a covetous person?
2. Am I reaping the consequences of covetousness in my relationship with God?
3. Am I willing to repent?

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Thank you for staying

Please come back next week
for the solution

With An Attitude Of Contentment

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