

THE SIN OF COVETOUSNESS

Luke 12:15

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus, in our text, warns us to take heed and beware of covetousness.
2. God said in the law of Moses -- Ex. 20:7 "*Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant; nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's."*
3. COVETOUSNESS: Inordinately desirous of something belonging to another person; greedy of gain; a lover of money -- 2 Tim. 3:2; I Tim. 3:3
4. The Lord "*abhorreth*" the covetous -- Ps. 10: 3
5. "*Covetousness*"-- Paul said, "*Let it not be once named among saints*" -- Eph. 5:3
6. A "*covetous*" person cannot go to heaven -- I Cor. 6:10

I. WHAT CAN A MAN COVET?

1. Paul said a man could covet gold, silver, and apparel -- Acts 20:33
 - (1) Achan, in the Old Testament, coveted all three -- Joshua 7:21
 - (2) Men today covet money and apparel that belongs to others.
2. A man can covet his neighbor's house -- Ex. 20:17
3. A man can covet his neighbor's wife -- Ex. 20:17; Matt. 5:28
4. A man can covet his neighbor's ox, ass, or cattle -- Ex. 20:17
5. High positions can be coveted -- Mark 10: 35 - 45
6. Time that belongs to God in His service:
 - (1) Not attending Bible study, Wednesday and Sunday morning, and not coming on Sunday night -- John 4:23; Heb. 10:25
7. Money that belongs to God -- Mal. 3:10; I Cor. 16: 1 - 2
 - (1) Men rob God by withholding part, and not giving as much as they should.
 - (2) This shows lack of faith -- 2 Cor. 9:10

II. THE FRUITS OF COVETOUSNESS

1. Jesus warns us "*beware of covetousness*" -- Luke 12:15 -- Why? Not only because of what it is, but because of what it does.
 - (1) OPPRESSION -- Jacob at the hand of Laban -- Gen. 31:7 -- Rich men oppress their laborers-- James 5: 1, 4
 - (2) It blinds one to the source of wealth -- Luke 12: 16- 21
2. Covetousness caused David to commit adultery and to murder -- 2 Sam. 11: 1 - 5
3. Covetousness caused Ananias and Sapphira to lie -- Acts 5: 1 - 11
4. Covetousness caused the rich man to be unmerciful -- Luke 16: 19 - 28
5. Covetousness robs churches of Power and Strength.
 - (1) The potential of every congregation is greatly lessened because of this sin.

III. HOW COVETOUSNESS CAN BE PUT TO DEATH -- Col. 3:5

1. Covetousness comes from the heart -- Mark 7: 20 - 23
 - (1) Therefore, we must keep our thinking right to overcome this sin.

2. We overcome covetousness by seeking first the Kingdom of God -- Matt. 6:33
3. We must learn to put trust in God, rather than in material things -- Heb. 13:5; I Tim. 6:17
 - (1) God will supply your physical needs -- Matt. 6: 25 - 26, 30; Psa. 103: 2; James 1:17

CONCLUSION

1. Christians should be warned against covetousness.
2. The fate of the sin of covetousness -- I Cor. 6: 9 - 10

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