

March 17, 2019



Exodus 20:17

### **SERMON SUMMARY**

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:17

### **Essence of the Command**

- Do not covet = be content
  - Coveting: not being content with what God wants for you
- 1. Do not desire what rightfully belongs to someone else.**
    - There is nothing wrong with noticing what others have. But noticing becomes coveting when we crave something we don’t have and become resentful. Coveting leads to feelings of discontentment and dissatisfaction.
      - Do you stop and thank God for how He’s blessed others, or have you stopped thanking God for what He’s given you?
    - There is nothing wrong with desiring things (ex. to grow spiritually, for children, etc). This commandment is not to eliminate hopes and dreams, but to eliminate desiring what God has chosen for another to have.
    - Coveting is the root of other sins, breaking of other commandments
      - Achan (Joshua 7): Achan *covets* gold and silver of the Babylonians and *steals* them, bringing sin upon the Israel community
      - David (2 Samuel 11): David *covets* Bathsheba, another man’s wife. He then *steals* her away from her husband, *murders* her husband, then *lies* about it.
  - 2. Do not desire in excess.**
    - Deuteronomy 5:21 – the Hebrew word for *desire* means to desire in excess
    - Do we expect or want things in our lives to bring joy and satisfaction and fulfillment?
    - Colossians 3:5 – Paul calls covetousness *idolatry*. Coveting is a serious sin.

### **Games We Play**

1. **Comparison game** – Do I have more than others? Do I want what others have?

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2. **Hoarding game** – Not that I don't want what other have, but I keep to myself what I have because it gives me safety and security. I am unable to be generous.
3. **"If only" game** – "If only I had \_\_\_\_, then I'd be happy"

**Jesus is all you need. Trust what He desires for your life.**

- God knows what you need and will supply it.
- God knows where you need to be (your location, your job, where you're serving, etc) and has placed you there with His wisdom.

**Crushing Covetousness with Contentment**

1. Thankfulness – Cultivate a heart of gratitude
2. Trust – If we can trust God with our salvation, we can trust Him with the details of our lives

## DISCUSSION

**Reminders for small group leaders:**

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**
- Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
- Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
- The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?**
- Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.

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**RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself**

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

## QUESTIONS

*Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!*

**Getting to know you**

- What's the craziest thing you've seen or heard of someone doing to get what they wanted?
  - *Heard of the latest college admissions scandal? It has just been discovered at least 33 families have paid billions of dollars to get their children admitted into Ivy League and*

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*other prestigious schools by bribing athletic coaches and cheating on standardized testing.*

- Coveting goes beyond just wanting more *material things*. What are other things people covet?
  - Positions of power or influence
  - Spouses, kids, grandkids, families
  - Having another spouse, a kid like theirs, a family like theirs, etc; or a family member like someone else
  - Not having a constant sin issue, physical disability, etc
  - Locations: living in another neighborhood, having another job, etc

### **Into the Bible/Application**

- How are coveting and discontentment related?
- **Read Colossians 3:5.** Paul calls coveting idolatry; how is this true? What areas are you tempted to covet or give into idolatry?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 5:10 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10.** How do these passages give more insight to the (eternal) value of the things we have? What does it look like to be content according to 1 Timothy 6:6-10?
- What are some things people do to get what they want and/or as a result of coveting?
  - Hurt others to get more for themselves
  - Are preoccupied with making and accumulating more
  - Are unwilling to give up what already have
  - Frequently grumble about their house, their spouse, the quality or quantity of their possessions, general state of their life
  - (From *The 10 Commandments* by Kevin DeYoung)
- **Read Philippians 4:11-13.** This passage is not saying that “we can do anything we want because of Jesus” or “Jesus will bless me in whatever I do.” In context, Paul is thanking the Philippian church for their financial gift for his ministry. But he also lets them know that he has learned to be *content* in whatever life situation he is in (verse 11), whether having plenty or facing need (verse 12). The **secret** in facing any and every situation, is to **be content**. We can trust that God is the one who gives strength to face life as it comes.
  - How would you explain the meaning of this verse to someone else in light of what we learned about coveting?
  - Why would Paul call contentment or being content a “secret”?
  - What does it look like to be content in any and every situation?
- We can replace coveting in our hearts with thanksgiving and trusting God. What areas do you need to be thankful for? What areas do you need to trust God with what He’s given you or where He has you?

### **PRAY**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the things, locations, or situations you may be coveting. Confess and ask for forgiveness.
- Ask God to remind you this week of the things to be thankful for, and for things to trust Him with.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### *Women*

**Table for 5** is happening on Saturday, April 6 from 11:30am-2pm. This event is for women high school and up to meet with four other random women from our church for lunch in Corvallis. Sign up and see the insert in the Sunday program for more info. Questions? Email [elena@osuepic.com](mailto:elena@osuepic.com).

A **Clothing Swap** will also be happening after Table for 5 (see info above). If you have gently used or like-new clothing you want to donate, drop them off in the church office by March 31.

### *Youth*

**The Corvallis Retreat** for middle and high school students is happening April 5-7. Cost is \$25. To sign up, visit [grantavebc.org](http://grantavebc.org). Invite your friends!

### *Senior Adults*

The next **senior adult day trip** to the Historic Carousel and Museum in Albany will be this Thursday, March 21. Meet at the church at 11am to ride together for lunch at Izzy's then the carousel. The cost is \$2 per ride on the carousel.

### *All church*

Pray for our **team of 26 that are headed to Mexico this week for spring break!** They will be serving a local family in Tijuana by building them a home. Pray for the Gospel to be received, for the family, safe travels, and health of team members.

Our first-ever **Marriage Conference** will be happening on May 3-4 at the church. Individuals, dating couples, and engaged couples are also welcome to join for teaching, discussion, games, and snacks. Childcare is also provided, but you must register by April 21.

Friday, May 3 from 6:30-8:30pm (optional dinner at 5:30pm)

Saturday, May 4 from 9am-3pm

Cost: \$30 for couples, \$20 for individuals

The **Annie Armstrong Easter offering for North American missions** is being collected with month. Pray for our missionaries in North America and consider giving to support over 5,000 missionaries.

We have experienced an usually high number of requests for emergency food box assistance and need to **restock the Food Closet**. Please consider donating non-perishable, non-expired foods or give funds to purchase Food Closet items.

**Vacation Bible School** is happening July 8-12! If you want to volunteer to help with teaching, crafts, snacks, music, or anything else, contact Carrie Bernard at [carrie@grantavebc.org](mailto:carrie@grantavebc.org).