

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not covet." Exodus 20:17

A. The Command Itself: Notice that six specific things which one is not to covet are listed - but all of these, and all that any person of any age in any culture might covet are summed up in the final phrase of the commandment: "Thou shalt not covet...*anything* that is thy neighbor's." (Emphasis added)

B. An Old Testament Example: After the nation Israel had risen to the height of its power and had begun to decline, one of its kings was guilty of breaking this commandment. Read about this in 1 Kings 21:1-24:

1. Who were the two neighbors in this story? 1 Kings 21:1
 - a. _____, the king of Israel at Samaria, and
 - b. _____, the Jezreelite.
2. What did the second have that the first wanted? 1 Kings 21:2

3. Why did the owner refuse to give up this property? 1 Kings 21:3

4. How did the king act when he couldn't have his own way? 1 Kings 21:4

5. Who is the third character in this story? 1 Kings 21:5

6. Notice in 1 Kings 21:7-10 how she went about getting her own way. What two groups of people helped her carry out her wicked plans?
 - a. 1 Kings 21:11 _____
 - b. 1 Kings 21:13 _____
7. How did the king feel when he heard that his neighbor was dead? 1 Kings 21:15, 16

8. What punishment was promised and carried out for these sins?
 - a. To Ahab himself: 1 Kings 21:19, 22:37, 38

 - b. To his descendants: 1 Kings 21:21, 24; 2 Kings 10:11

 - c. To his wife: 1 Kings 21:23; 2 Kings 9:30, 37

9. Notice that Ahab's sin *began* with coveting - but it did not *stop* there. Tell how he broke the following commandments as well:
 - a. First _____
 - b. Second _____
 - c. Third _____
 - d. Sixth _____
 - e. Eighth _____

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f. Ninth _____
Notice how completely he broke **both** parts of the law as given by Jesus in Matthew 22:36-40.

C. The Command in the New Testament:

1. Where does the sin of covetousness always begin? Mark 7:21, 22

2. What are we to do about the sin of covetousness? Colossians 3:5 (Look up this word in a dictionary)

D. The Command in Present-Day Life:

1. A good definition of coveting would be this: "Wanting something which God in His all-wise providence has not seen fit to give to you." Unless this desire is checked in the heart, it usually leads to other sins in order to obtain the thing desired.
2. What kind of coveting is permitted and even commanded by God through Paul? (See 1 Corinthians 12:31)

QUESTIONS FOR ME THINK ABOUT:

1. What do I want that God has not seen fit for me to have?

2. If I allow these desires to stay in my heart, what other sins may I commit?
