

RULES TO LIVE BY!



11. Do Not Covet

Introduction

We have finally come to the last commandment! Do you know what it is? Although this is the tenth command, it is no less important than the others.

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:21

- ❶ What does it mean to covet?
- ❷ It was covetousness that caused the Children of Israel to be defeated when they attacked the City of Ai, not long after they had entered the Promised Land. Read Achan's confession in Joshua 7:19-23. What steps had led to this sin, and what can we learn from this?
- ❸ What did covetousness lure people to do in the time of Micah? How did God respond to this? Read Micah 2:1-3
- ❹ What other sinful actions stem from covetousness or greed in the following verses? Leviticus 25:14, 17, Proverbs 22:16, James 4:2
- ❺ Sadly we see the result of covetousness all around us. How has covetousness affected our society today?

Covetousness comes from our heart. Although we may not have oppressed or taken advantage of others, we may still have a struggle with covetousness in our hearts. One day when Jesus was asked about an inheritance, Jesus went on to speak to the crowd about greed. Read Luke 12:13-21

- ❻ Jesus warned about all kinds of greed in Luke 12:15. What different kinds of greed are there?
- ❼ What lessons can we learn from this story, and why does Jesus call the rich man foolish?
- ❽ How can we guard ourselves against greed? Look at the following verses: Psalm 119:36-37, Colossians 3:5, James 4:2-3, Matthew 6:33

Conclusion

We see the result of man's greed and covetousness all around us. Let's guard our hearts against this sin, whether it's covetousness of someone else's possessions or money, position or fame, or even their abilities and talents. The answer to covetousness is contentment. Let's read 1Timothy 6:6-9, 11 together.