

## COVETOUSNESS

Luke 12:13-21; Colossians 3:5-7;  
1 Corinthians 5:9

## What Is Covetousness?

"A strong desire to acquire more and more material possessions or to possess more things than other people have, all irrespective of need." (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

"Greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice: Luke 12:15; Romans 1:29; Ephesians 4:19; 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:5; 2 Peter 2:3." (Thayer)

## What Is Covetousness?

Webster:

"Marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions or for another's possessions ... having a craving for possession"

Examples: One aggressive bargain hunter rushed to make a "covetous" grab for the last marked-down TV.

Discussion: An implication of selfishness and often suggests unfair or ruthless means, a hard grasping trader who cheated the natives ..."

## What Is Covetousness?

Inordinate (unlawful) desire.

Desire to get things quickly. Luke 15:11-12;  
TEXT Luke 12

## What Is Covetousness?

"Idolatry" Colossians 3:1-5

- Dethrones God from the soul. Colossians 3:5
- A covetous man is an idolater because he loves, trusts, and serves money more than God. (Pulpit Commentary)
- Worldly master. cf. Matthew 6:24
- Selfishness grown to a passion.
- Consider context. Acts 19:23-29; Ephesians 4:17-24; 5:3-5
- Consequences. Matthew 19:16-22; Matthew 16:26

## What Is The Source Of Covetousness?

- ☐ An evil heart. Luke 12:33-34; cf. Proverbs 4:23
- ☐ A carnal mind. Romans 1:29-32; cf. Colossians 3:1-4

### What Are The Fruits Of Covetousness?

"Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness" (Luke 12:15)

Because of what it does!

- Caused some to suffer oppression.
  - Jacob at the hands of Laban. Genesis 31:7,15,41-42
  - Israel fell. Jeremiah 6:13-16; cf. Jeremiah 5:30

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- Caused David to commit adultery and murder.
  - 2 Samuel 11:1-5; Exodus 20:17

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- Caused Naboth to be killed.
  - 1 Kings 21:1-16

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- ▣ Caused Gehazi to lie. 2 Kings 5:20-27

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- ▣ Caused Achan to steal. Joshua 7

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Because of what it does!

- Caused Balaam to lead multitudes to death & judgment. Numbers 22:7, 16-17  
Numbers 25:6-9
- "Woe unto them! For they ... ran riotously in the error of Balaam for hire." Jude 11;  
"Loved the hire of wrongdoing" 2 Peter 2:15

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"Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness" (Luke 12:15)

Because of what it does!

- Causes some to depart from the faith. 1 Timothy 6:10

## The Cure For Covetousness

- ▣ Change the heart.
  - "Put it away ..." Colossians 3:5-6
- ▣ Change what you love. 1 John 2:15
- ▣ Repentance! 2 Cor. 7:10-11

## Conclusion

- ▣ Luke 12:15, "And he said unto them, Take heed, and keep yourselves from all **covetousness**: for a man's life consisteth not in abundance of the things which he possesseth."
- ▣ 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Or know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, nor **covetous**, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."