

Joshua Series “Achan’s Sin”
Joshua 7:20-21
May 23, 2021

Joshua 7:20-21

20 Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: 21 When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

Exodus 20:17

17 “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.”

Why is “coveting” at the last commandment?

We compare our lives to each other and we begin to resent what we don’t have that others do.

James 4:1-2

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.

Martin Luther - “This last commandment, then is addressed not to those whom the world considers wicked rogues, but precisely to the most upright - to people who wish to be commended as honest and virtuous because they have not offended the preceding commandments.”

Joshua 7:21

Achan said, “When I saw in the plunder a beautiful.... I took.”

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good, a delight to the eyes, and that it could make one wise, she took...”

Coveting is gross over estimate of the world.

The soul’s resting place, regarding happiness, has never been or ever will be the stuff someone else has, but the treasuring of what we have in Christ.

Hebrews 13:5

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,
“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

It is God's commitment to us that brings contentment and frees us from coveting.

Thomas Watson Quote - "Wicked men are often disquieted in the enjoyment of all things; the contented Christian is well in the want of all things. But how comes a Christian to be contented in the deficiency of outward comforts? A Christian finds contentment distilled out of the breasts of the promises. He is poor in purse, but rich in promise. There is one promise that brings much sweet contentment into the soul: "they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing." (Ps. 34. 10) If the thing we desire be good for us, we shall have it; if it be not good, then the not having is good for us. The resting satisfied with the promise gives contentment."

You have exactly what you need to glorify God right now, right where you are, with exactly what you have.

Psalm 131:2

But I have calmed and quieted myself,
I am like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child I am content.

Contentment has a root meaning of "raising a barrier". That contentment becomes a shield.

Philippians 4:11-13

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Coveting is remedied by contentment, and contentment comes through treasuring Jesus.

Contentment is not a settling for less but is a secured resting in the abundance of God in His timing.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Have you ever had significant buyer's regret after a purchase? What did you think you really needed to realize that it wasn't what you expected?
- How is the impulse to have "more" something our society maximizes?
- How did the desire to have more play out in the original sin in Genesis 3? Are we still lured by the temptation of what looks good and pleasing to the eye? In what ways?
- If the soul's resting place will never be in having enough stuff or the right set of circumstances, then how do we experience contentment?

- Read Psalm 131. What is the image of a weaned child in his mother's arms meant to convey? Is the process of weaning a child easy? How does this portray a change in maturity that is good for us?
- Discuss the implications that the grand goal of life has changed from acquiring and gaining the world to glorify God.
- If you have everything you need to glorify God right where you are, then how does that adjust your desires, ambitions and sense of contentment?
- How can your Grow Group help you apply this teaching to your life this week?