

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Secret of Satisfaction

SERMON REFERENCE: Exodus 20:17

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1864

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We have been told by Madison Avenue (advertisers) that we can be happy and satisfied if we just have that different car, a better vacation or that more wonderful house, etc.
 - i) The truth is, though, that things do not bring happiness.
 - ii) A noted research firm discovered that most couples argue over money and possessions than anything else, and many of these couples have many material possessions.
 - iii) Many couples today want to get in a few years what it took their parents decades to attain.
- b) Exodus 20:17 commands us to not covet.
- c) What does it mean to covet?
 - i) This refers to unlawful desires of things to which we have no rights; not lawful desires.
 - (1) Money, things, influence, power, fame, appearance, popularity.
 - (2) Because you do not have it, your happiness is hindered.
 - ii) Covetousness says, "I must have that thing in order to be happy."
 - (1) You are not satisfied with what you have.
 - (2) This disobeys the commandment to be thankful in all things.
 - (3) Rather than being humbly grateful, you are grumbly hateful.
 - (4) Epicurus said, "To whom little is not enough, nothing is enough."
 - iii) Covetousness has an appetite that is never satisfied.
- d) This command is not referring to legitimate and lawful desires.
 - i) When God saves you, He does not make you passionless.
 - (1) It is not wrong to want: a home, clothes, a family, satisfaction, happiness, success, victory.
 - (2) It is not wrong to want to acquire things
 - (a) Deuteronomy 8:18
 - ii) Covetousness goes beyond that which is legitimate to that which is illegitimate, harmful and hurtful.
 - iii) To covet is an unlawful desire.
 - (1) Ephesians 5:20
- e) This commandment in Exodus 20:17 is different from the other nine commandments in that it deals not with what we do but with what we are.
 - i) It deals with attitude not action.
 - ii) It deals with desires not deeds.
 - iii) This commandment rightly sums up the others because it shows what is in our hearts.

2) A PERPLEXING PROBLEM

- a) Covetousness is a very deceptive problem.
 - i) Very few people realize they are covetous.
 - ii) 1 Thessalonians 2:5

- (1) We can wear the cloak of self-righteousness but be guilty of sinful coveting.
- iii) Spurgeon: “I have seen thousands converted, but I have never seen a covetous man converted.”
- iv) Francis Xavier: “I have heard thousands and thousands of confessions, but I have yet to hear a person confess the sin of covetousness.”
- v) Romans 7:7
 - (1) Paul recognized that the sin of covetousness was in his heart and life.
 - (2) We may never have committed the act of a certain sin, but can we say that we never wanted to?
 - (3) We may never have stolen anything, but can we say that we never really wanted what belonged to another person?
- b) Covetousness is a debasing problem.
 - i) Covetousness comes out of the heart.
 - ii) Mark 7:21-23
 - iii) Covetousness shows the vileness of our hearts.
 - iv) Covetousness comes from within.
 - v) The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart.
 - (1) We are born with it.
 - (2) We have a “me first” attitude.
 - vi) Charles Kingsley: “If you wish to be miserable, think about yourself, about what you want, about what you like, what respect people ought to pay you, and then to you nothing will be pure. You will spoil everything you touch, you will make misery for yourself out of everything good, you will be as wretched as you choose.”
 - (1) This is covetousness.
 - vii) Eric Fran: “If I am what I have and what I have is lost, then who am I?”
 - viii) Many people define themselves by what they have rather than who they are or to Whom they belong; we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) Covetousness is a destructive problem.
 - i) 1 Timothy 6:6-10
 - (1) This passage does not refer to those who are rich, but to those who seek to be rich.
 - (a) Some rich people are godly, some poor people are ungodly; some rich people are ungodly and some poor people are godly.
 - (2) The Bible does not condemn riches.
 - (3) The Bible condemns making riches your goal.
 - (a) This goal puts another god in your life.
 - (4) Matthew 6:33
 - ii) Never tell someone, “Make all the money you can, just make it honestly.”
 - (1) Otherwise, they will be out making money when they should be doing more important things.
 - iii) Covetousness can cause us to disobey all the other commandments.
 - (1) Exodus 20:3-4

- (a) Colossians 3:5
- (b) Covetousness is idolatry.
- (c) When gold becomes our god and greed is our creed, then covetousness breaks the first two commandments.
- (2) Exodus 20:7
 - (a) Many people have used God and religion to try to get ahead and to get for themselves the things they want.
 - (i) This makes their religion a form of self-service and hypocrisy.
- (3) Exodus 20:8
 - (a) Covetousness prompts businesses to stay open on the Lord's day.
- (4) Exodus 20:12
 - (a) Covetousness is the reason we fail to care for aging parents or even decide against having children due to coveting other things.
- (5) Exodus 20:13
 - (a) Covetousness is often the motive behind many killings.
- (6) Exodus 20:14
 - (a) We take what belongs to others because of covetousness.
- (7) Exodus 20:15
 - (a) Lying about someone is stealing their reputation and lying about yourself to get ahead are both forms of covetousness.
- (8) Exodus 20:16
 - (a) When we break this commandment, we are stealing someone's reputation or trying by dishonesty to get ahead.
- (9) Each one of the above commandments are transgressed by disobeying the commandment in Exodus 20:17.
- d) Covetousness leads to Hell.
 - i) Ephesians 5:5
 - (1) Covetousness is no a minor sin.

3) A PROPER PERSPECTIVE

- a) Covetousness is a lack of perspective.
- b) The secret of satisfaction and contentment can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Hebrews 13:5-6
 - (1) "Conversation" in verse 5 means "lifestyle."
 - (2) The only truly contented and satisfied people are those who've let go of this world with both hands and have taken hold of Jesus Christ with both hands.
- c) We must have a proper perspective.
 - i) How rich we are when we are saved and have God.
 - (1) Salvation
 - (a) Psalm 73:25-26
 - (2) Family: spouse and children
 - (a) Proverbs 18:22

- (b) Psalm 127:3
 - (c) Children do not make a rich man poor, they make a poor man rich.
 - (d) A rich man cannot take his riches to Heaven, but a saved man can take his children to Heaven.
 - ii) As Christians, we have friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - (1) Proverbs 17:17
 - iii) We have wisdom and knowledge of the Word of God.
 - (1) Proverbs 3:13-14
 - iv) We have peace that passes all understanding in God.
 - (1) We can be satisfied with our needs and not our greeds.
 - (2) Philippians 4:11
 - (3) Isaiah 48:22
- 4) A PROPER PRACTICE
- a) What must we do to find satisfaction and how can we teach our children contentment?
 - b) What is the secret of satisfaction?
 - i) Trust in the Lord.
 - (1) A covetous person does not have his or her eyes upon the Lord.
 - (2) Only God can satisfy the deepest longing of our hearts.
 - ii) Develop a spirit of thankfulness.
 - (1) Be thankful to God and bless His name.
 - (2) Help children understand how wealthy they are in Christ.
 - (3) The problem we face with covetousness is not that we want more, but that we want more than somebody else.
 - iii) Learn to love other people.
 - (1) We covet what someone else has when we do not love that person.
 - (2) If we love others, then we will rejoice with them that they have what they have.
 - (3) When we are jealous of someone else, it is a good indicator that we do not love that person.
 - (4) Learn to enjoy the grace of God in someone else's life.
 - iv) Learn to give.
 - (1) This is one of the best ways to deal with covetousness.
 - (2) We are often selfish with our lives and with our things.
 - (a) Psalm 24:1

5) CONCLUSION

- a) In learning to give, the first place to start is by giving your heart and life to Jesus Christ.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.

- i) Romans 3:23
- ii) Romans 10:9-10
- iii) Romans 10:13
- iv) Acts 16:31
- v) John 3:16