

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Secret of Satisfaction

SERMON REFERENCE: Exodus 20:17

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1864

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2020 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We have been told by Madison Avenue that we can be happy and satisfied if we just have that different car, a better vacation or that more wonderful house, etc.
- b) The truth is, though, that things do not bring happiness.
 - i) 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.
- c) Exodus 20:17 commands us to not covet.
- d) What does it mean to covet?
 - i) This is not a command against legitimate and lawful desire.
 - (1) It is not wrong to want a home, a family, clothes, success, victory, etc.
 - (2) Deuteronomy 8:18
 - ii) Covetousness goes beyond that which is lawful to that which is illegitimate, harmful and hurtful.
 - iii) To covet is an unlawful desire.
 - (1) Wanting something that someone else has that you do not have, and you have no legitimate, lawful reason to have what they have.
 - (2) This may involve money or possessions, but may also include influence, power, fame, appearance, etc.
 - (3) Because you do not have it, your happiness is hindered.
 - (4) The spirit of covetousness says that you must have that thing in order to be happy, and you are not satisfied with what you have.
 - (a) This disobeys the commandment to be thankful in all things.
 - (i) Ephesians 5:20
- e) A philosopher once said, "To whom little is not enough, nothing is enough."
- f) Covetousness has an appetite that is never satisfied.
- g) 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.
- h) 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) 1 Thessalonians 2:5
 - (1) We can wear the cloak of self-righteousness but be guilty of sinful coveting.
 - ii) Few, if any, people ever admit to being covetous.
 - iii) 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) Mark 7:21-23
 - ii) Covetousness shows the vileness of our hearts.
 - iii) Covetousness comes from within.
 - iv) We have a “me first” attitude.
 - v) 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.
 - (2) The Bible does not condemn wealth.
 - (3) The Bible condemns making wealth your goal.
 - (4) Matthew 6:33
 - ii) Covetousness can cause us to disobey the other commandments.
 - (1) Exodus 20:3-4
 - (a) Colossians 3:5
 - (b) Covetousness is idolatry.
 - (c) Covetousness breaks the first two commandments.
 - (2) Exodus 20:7
 - (a) How many have used God and Christianity to try to get ahead and to get for themselves the things they want?
 - (b) A person’s religion in this case becomes only 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) Often times, 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.
 - (6) Exodus 20:14
 - (7) Exodus 20:15
 - (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.
 - iii) Ephesians 5:5
 - (1) Covetousness is no a minor sin.

3) A PROPER PERSPECTIVE (Hebrews 13:5-6)

- a) The secret of satisfaction and contentment can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) 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) Psalm 73:25-26
 - ii) We are rich indeed when blessed with a family.
 - (1) Proverbs 18:22
 - (2) Psalm 127:3
 - iii) As Christians, we have friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - (1) Proverbs 17:17
 - iv) We have wisdom and knowledge of the Word of God.
 - (1) Proverbs 3:13-14
 - v) We have peace that passes all understanding in God.
 - (1) Philippians 4:11
 - (2) Isaiah 48:22

4) A PROPER PRACTICE

- a) What must we do to find satisfaction and how can we teach our children contentment?
 - 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) If we love others, then we will rejoice with them that they have what they have.
 - (2) We covet what someone else has when we do not love that person.
 - (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