

THE LORD IS MY HELPER

Text: Hebrews 13:5-6

“Let your conversation be without covetousness” The word conversation means our behavior or the way we live. Covetousness is an intense, sinful, and inordinate desire for wealth, possessions, or the belongings of others, often characterized by greed, envy and a lack of contentment. Covetousness is a serious sin because it originates in our hearts and it has these effects:

- **Lack of contentment with what God has already blessed you with** – Eve became dissatisfied with all the fruit trees God had given her to eat from and coveted the one that was forbidden to her
- **It provokes you to be envious of other people and their possessions, possibly to the point of injury** – The tenth commandment forbids covetousness and points out specifics like your neighbor’s house or spouse, their servants or beasts or anything that is theirs. King Ahab saw Naboth’s vineyard and coveted it to the point that Jezebel conspired to kill Naboth so that Ahab could have his vineyard.
- **The most dangerous thing about covetousness is that it becomes idolatry -**
Colossians 3:5-6 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: Idolatry is when anything takes God's place, not only in worship but what we trust in.

That’s why Jesus warned us about this in **Matthew 6:24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. *Mammon is an Aramaic term for wealth, money or material possessions that competes with God for total devotion and loyalty. Jesus called it a “master” here. The following verses shed more light on this: **Read Matthew 6:25-34***

2 mindsets that fuel covetousness:

- **I’ve got to look out for number 1** – my living is my responsibility
- **The security of my future depends on me**

Both are addressed in **Luke 12:15-21**

The ways to combat covetousness:

- **Be content with what you have - 1 Timothy 6:6-8** But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
- **Trust in the Lord for what you need** – The whole wilderness experience for Israel was God’s way of teaching them to trust Him for their needs. He provided manna every day for them to have food. He made water gush out of a rock into a river. He healed bitter waters and made them sweet. He gave them power to overcome enemies that warred with them. He directed their path both day and night.
- **Stop creating fear in your heart by going into the future in your mind - Matthew 6:34** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof. Jesus taught us to pray for daily bread....give us this day our daily bread. The manna was given new every day but the sabbath. The fool whose ground brought forth so much had a hoarding mentality because he didn’t trust God to provide for his needs for tomorrow.
- **Be generous in your giving - Luke 12:21** So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. **Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. *God wants us to be a conduit He can give through instead of a barrier where the blessings stop! Biblical examples of people who gave what they needed and received more in return:*

Hannah – She didn’t have any children so she promised to give the Lord her son if He would bless her to have him. She gave the Lord Samuel and received 5 more children.

Ruth – Ruth was a widow, but she gave herself to Naomi forsaking everything she knew. She received Boaz who was wealthy and loved her dearly and they had a family together.

The widow of Zarephath – She had only enough to make a last, small meal for her and her son but she gave it to Elijah and received food for many days through a terrible famine.

God – The Father gave his only begotten Son because He so loved the world and He has reaped many sons because of all those who have been saved through Him.