

EVERYDAY LIFE

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

"I saw the spoils . . . I coveted them and took them." Joshua 7:21 NKJV

"Your heart cannot desire what your eye has not seen."

My thoughts today are about **"having to have."**

Look around; you can't escape it; you're surrounded. Every magazine, radio and TV commercial, store's window display, and billboard has **one goal: to make you unhappy with what you have**, and suggest that your happiness comes from having more and better than you have right now. It's all about marketing and advertising to **create discontent, until you not only want more, you think you need more!**

A new car always seems shinier than the one you have. New clothes of the latest fashion and style make what's in your closet seem less desirable to wear. The latest phone, digital camera, MP3 player, or flat panel TV become a must have item, when you **confuse luxuries as necessities.**

Often it is because you covet what you see others have. One of the Ten Commandments is *"Do not covet your neighbor's house . . . or anything else your neighbor owns."* Exodus 20:17 NLT. **Coveting is a wicked thing**, causing you to want what others have, instead of their having it.

In this very materialistic world, it is harder and harder to be content with what you have. Here's what the Bible says, *"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires . . . For the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrow."* 1 Timothy 6:6-10 NLT.

Discontentment makes you vulnerable to a covetous spirit, strongly wanting what you do not have when you see what others do have. Happiness is rarely, if ever, found in having *"more and better,"* and certainly not if gained improperly - contrary to God's Word. Such gain soon becomes pain. It's an old story, right from the beginning in the Garden of Eden, *"When Eve saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eye, and desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate."* Genesis 3:6. She saw; she took; she ate. Notice the inevitable progression. Then Adam and Eve quickly discovered things are not always as they first seem.

Across the years, I have **observed that the heart cannot desire what the eye has not seen.** *"Stay away from the love of money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never forsake you.' That is why we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper.'"* Hebrews 13:5-6 NLT. It is not having money that is a problem; it is loving money and coveting things it can buy.

When you covet what others have, you question God's ability and willingness to provide what you need. See Phil 4:19 NIV. When you have a need, present your need to God in prayer, and trust Him to give to you whatever is true to His will and wisdom for you, in the way and at the time that He knows is best for you. See Philippians 4:6-7, 11-12 NIV and 2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT.

My prayer for you is to avoid having to have things you don't need.

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