

Title: Fill in the Blank

Text: Exodus 20:17

Target: If only I had _____, I would be happy.

- I. **The Sin of Coveting:** *“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”* (Colossians 3:5)
 - A. **The Distinction of Coveting:** (James 4:3)
 1. **Legitimate Desires**
 2. **Longing Desires:**
 - a) **Lust:** General Desire
 - b) **Greed:** Material Desire
 - c) **Envy:** Jealous Desire
 - d) **Covet:** Unlawful Desire
 - B. **The Deception of Coveting:** (Romans 7:7)
 1. **Subtle Sin:** Inconspicuous to you.
 2. **Secret Sin:** Invisible to others
 3. **Systemic Sin:** Interwoven into all other 9 commandments.
- II. **The Shadiness of Coveting:** *“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”* (James 1:14-15)
 - A. **The Disordering of Coveting:** Rearranges your passions.
 1. **Become Consumed by the Idea:** False sense of Satisfaction.
 2. **Feel Completed by the Idea:** False sense of Security.
 - B. **The Dishonor in Coveting:** Reveals your priorities. (Ephesians 5:5)
 1. **Misplaced Worship:** Speaks to Idolatry (Exodus 20:3)
 2. **Misguided Worth:** Source of Identity (Exodus 20:4)
- III. **The Signs of Coveting:** *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”* (1 Timothy 6:10)
 - A. **The Disruption of Coveting:**
 1. Your schedule revolves around it.
 2. Your spending is prioritized by it.
 3. Your speech is absorbed in it.
 4. Your success is wrapped up in it.
 - B. **The Destruction in Coveting:**
 1. If you are not enough without it, you will never be enough with it.
 2. You will exceed your limits, and the limits will exceed you.
 3. You will seek to possess it, and then it will possess you.
- IV. **The Secret in overcoming Coveting:** *“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.”* (Philippians 4:11)
 - A. **It’s a Heart Issue:** (Luke 12:15)
 1. **Guarded Heart:** Proverbs 4:23
 2. **Grateful Heart:** Matthew 6:33
 3. **Generous Heart:** Proverbs 21:26
 4. **Godly Heart:** 1 Corinthians 12:31, 1 Corinthians 14:39
 - B. **It’s a Heaven Issue:** (Matthew 6:19-21)

Take Away: Could it be that the very thing you have been coveting is nowhere close to what God had in store for you? Don’t settle for second best, believe God he has what’s best.