

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week the final week on the Commandments. We end with the tenth commandment:

**10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

As the ninth commandment is connected to the sixth commandment, so the tenth commandment is related to the seventh commandment ("You shall not steal."); the seventh commandment is about *actions*, the tenth commandment is about *thoughts*.

Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, "**Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**" This is a great reminder that the Christian life is not just about negatives – what you cannot do – but points us to *real life* – what we must do for true happiness and fulfillment. Where are our hearts? Where is your heart? Where is mine? We can see what is most important to us by our calendar and our check book (so to speak) – how we spend our time and our money.

God asks for our hearts. He wants our love. Too often, our hearts are divided by the things of this world. When we focus on getting the "next good thing" here in this life, we focus not on God, but on passing things. And nothing in this world will satisfy. Our hearts were made for God and *only He* will satisfy. Think about all the famous people out there with all the money, fame, and power. How many times do we hear about broken lives – destroyed by addiction and/or depression. Things don't bring us happiness. When was the last time you were able to get that "dream vacation" or the "toy" (like a tractor, or something like that), or that new pair of shoes you wanted. You got a moment of elation (or, maybe more than a moment). But eventually, the "high" went away. Did you start looking for the "next thing"? Things don't bring us lasting happiness.

God wants our hearts not just because He wants them for Himself, but because He knows we won't truly be happy any other way. *God wants your happiness!* This is why the tenth commandment forbids things like greed and envy. It hurts *us*, and it hurts *others*. (Just a note about the difference between greed and envy. Greed says, "I want more and more [without limit]." Envy says, "I'm saddened that someone else has that, because *I wanted it!*" Both of these [envy and greed] refuse to live in the present.)

When we are constantly "keeping up with the Joneses," looking for the next great thing, looking to amass more things, more wealth, more security, we will never be satisfied, for there will always be *more* to get. I think about a friend (I'll name him "Jim") who worked much of his young adult life to gain his "million." He saw having a million dollars as a way to make sure he and his family were safe, protected from the un-surety of the world. When in middle age he finally had his million in the bank (and investments, etc.), he kept working to pad this million, protect it from failing. He was never satisfied. When he finally came to realize this, he had to face the reality that he would *never* be secure in this life... if he relied on himself and his bank account. He had to rely on God. Jim wasn't able to live in the present. He was always looking to the future, fearing some catastrophe for his family, looking for the next great opportunity to safeguard their welfare. And as a result, he missed the joy of his family in the moment.

God wants our hearts, and He says that while the things of this world will not ultimately satisfy us, He will take care of us. He promises this in Matthew 6:25-34

**Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ... So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.**

He promises He will take care of us if we trust in Him. I just want to say that things are not bad... God promises we will have the *things* we need, but not to focus on them... focus on love of God and His Kingdom.

As we conclude our survey of the Ten Commandments, may we examine where our hearts are, and ask God that we may trust His love for us, that He truly desires our happiness and joy, and that *He* may be our treasure, so we may find our hearts in Him.