

COVETOUSNESS

It's All in Your Mind...Attitude is Everything (Part 3)

²⁷ 'How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me. ²⁸ Say to them, "As I live," says the Lord, "just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; ²⁹ your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me.'" Numbers 14:27-29 (NASB)

ACT ONE:

I. YIELDING TO COVETOUSNESS AND WHY GOD HATES IT.

Covetousness – "Wanting wrong things, wanting right things for wrong reasons at the wrong time or in the wrong amount."

A. Covetousness becomes sin when we yield.

⁴ Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: 'Who will give us meat to eat?' Numbers 11:4 (NKJV)

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:5 (ESV)

B. When we dwell on desire, yielding is a matter of time.

"... 'Who will give us meat to eat?' ⁵ We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, ⁶ but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna.' ⁷ Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium. ⁸ The people would go about and gather it and grind it between two millstones or beat it in the mortar, and boil it in the pot and make cakes with it; and its taste was as the taste of cakes baked with oil. ⁹ When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it. ¹⁰ Now Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, each man at the doorway of his tent; and the anger of the Lord was kindled greatly, and Moses was displeased." Numbers 11:4b-10 (NASB)

C. At the root of covetousness is a rejection of God's sufficiency.

What you are really saying is: "God, You are not enough for me."

ACT TWO:

II. A GIFT FROM GOD YOU DON'T WANT.

¹⁸ 'Say to the people, "Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, 'Oh that someone would give us meat to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt.' Therefore the Lord will give you meat and you shall eat.'" Numbers 11:18 (NASB)

¹⁵ And He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul." Psalm 106:15 (NKJV)

Warning: Beware of begging God for non-essentials because in time we may hate what we had to have!!

¹⁸ '... Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. ¹⁹ You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, ²⁰ but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the Lord who is among you and have wept before him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"' Numbers 11:18-20a (ESV)

ACT THREE:

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF COVETOUSNESS.

³¹ Now there went forth a wind from the Lord and it brought quail from the sea, and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp and about two cubits deep on the surface of the ground. ³² The people spent all day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers) and they spread them out for themselves all around the camp." Numbers 11:31-32 (NASB)

A. Enough is never enough.

B. You live your life in the wilderness.

³³ While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very severe plague. ³⁴ So the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy." Numbers 11:33-34 (NASB)

THREE QUESTIONS:

1. Am I a covetous person?
2. Am I reaping the consequences in my relationship with God?
3. Am I willing to repent?