



## THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

Video can be viewed at: [https://youtu.be/4\\_CzjhSctRY](https://youtu.be/4_CzjhSctRY)

**“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”**

You're not allowed to covet your neighbor's possessions or his wife or anything that he has - that's the tenth commandment. We're going to talk about it and find out what the real meaning is when it's set back into its original context and culture.

I pray that this entire **10 Commandment Series** has been a blessing, but let's continue to find the real meanings in the Ten Commandments series. We've come to the final one, the *tenth commandment*, so let's dive right in.

Let's read the scripture, dissect it, get into the Hebrew, and see if the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob can give us a bit deeper understanding. Here we go!

Exodus chapter 20 verse 17 says, *‘You shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant nor his female servant nor his ox nor his donkey nor anything that is your neighbors’*. Now I don't know about you, but if God got wrote this for today the list would be a hundred miles longer of what we shouldn't covet, but the list here is pretty contextually conclusive. I think the reason why is because He's trying to make a simple point - *don't covet anything that doesn't belong to you*.

We're going to talk about why, but first of all let's break down the word *covet*. The word *covet* in Hebrew is *Chamad*. That's with a *Chet*, a *Mem* and a *Dalet*. What's fascinating about *Chamad*, is its meaning in Hebrew: *a deep desire for something*. It's not a *hey, those are cool shoes* or *that's a nice car*, it's *man I really wish I had those shoes*, or *I really wish I had that car or a larger house*.

It's a deep desire. A desire that's unhealthy is to desire something that someone else has.

In the Paleo Hebrew, which is the pictograph form of each letter, originally was a picture in Hebrew. This is what it meant. The *chet* was like a fence or a wall and it's connected to both life and death. Why? Because life is on the inside of the wall when we obey God, but when we cross over the wall, it can be death. Death can be the result. So, this is why, in Hebrew and Judaism, you can see the word *chet* can mean life or death. It comes from the ancient Paleo Hebrew. When you move over to the middle letter, which is the *mem*, it is like the waters of chaos. It can bring life; it can bring death. In the case of this particular topic of *Chamad* or *deep desire in a negative fashion* it brings us to the final letter of *Chamad* which is *dalet*. *Dalet* literally means an open door. So, if you take the pictograph of what it means to **covet**, it means,

*'When you climb over a wall that God has put in front of you and said don't do this, you're entering into the waters of chaos that will open a door for the enemy.'*

This is how we let the enemy into our life. It starts in the mind the moment that we begin to think about something that is unholy or unclean. Specifically in context with the tenth commandment, it is talking about someone else's possession, someone else's gifting, someone else's anointing. There's a lot of people that have a greed and a desire to covet someone's position or their influence. They say, *oh man he's got so many more subscribers than I do, or he's got more people in his church or he's got a better Church, a larger church, or a nicer car, better kids, whatever.*

When we start to desire those things, we're crossing the barrier, the fence, that God put in front of us, and we are entering into some strange waters. That will definitely open the door to the enemy, so we don't want to do that! But let's go a little bit further. **What is covet?** Covet is an English word, but the better word would be **envy**. When we're envious of something that someone else has – it's envy. I love this definition –

*'Envy is a capital sin that includes sadness, at the sight of another's goods, and the immoderate desire to acquire them for one's self.'*

I love that definition because it creates inside of us a sadness. When we look at someone else and what they have instead of being grateful and happy for them, there's a sadness that enters our heart and that's the dead giveaway that we are not following the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and trusting him and what

he has for us. Instead, we are being slowly led away by the enemy to say, *oh well, God's not really trying to bless you - look at how much he's blessing this other person* and our eyes get off the One who provides everything for us that we should be grateful for - such as our position, or our status in life, or our square of real estate. But we start to look at everything we don't have and that is exactly how the enemy entices us.

I will tell you this - from being a pastor for many years that even church splits begin this way. It begins in the heart, and it begins in the mind. Take an associate pastor or someone in leadership, they get jealous of, let's say, the senior pastor's influence and they desire more. Maybe it's a deacon that desires to be an elder or maybe it's someone that is a layman that desires to be a deacon or an elder or be in leadership. They feel they are qualified or that they should be qualified, but maybe deep down that frustration creates a sadness which begins to create a greed. Then it begins the process of wanting to steal or give themselves authority by taking what they envy from someone else. That's the spirit of Jezebel.

The spirit of Jezebel always looks to steal anointing or steal something from someone else. They're not okay with what God has given them and we'll talk more about that, but again, if you ever feel the sadness when you're seeing someone else being blessed, that is *the first step* the enemy takes to draw you away and then use you to hurt someone else.

All right. **Envy**. It is, in a very real way, telling God that what he's giving you or what you've achieved is not good enough. At the end of the day, it's saying that He's not a good God. Let me say that again, because I know that many of you may not really fully grasp what I'm saying here. Maybe you've never heard this before, but when we envy something that someone else has in an unhealthy way, and it's always unhealthy when you have unhappiness inside of you, that sadness, your telling God that he's not a good God. How you might say? How is that? Because you're telling Him that what He's given you is not good enough, so therefore He can't be a good God. Everything in life can be solved when we understand that God is benevolent. That He only gives - He cannot receive. All the sacrifices? That's why He says *obedience is better than sacrifice*.

Sacrifice - did you know the entire temple sacrificial system is not for God's benefit? He's not receiving anything from that! For God to have the ability to receive is by default meaning that he must have a lack, and there's no void within the Creator where he needs us for anything. He would not be a God, but he would be like a demigod that has powers, but also has needs. He's not a God that has any needs whatsoever. Everything inside of him is overflowing with love to give. We are created with reception ability for the purpose of giving to others. Our giving does not come from within, it comes from without. So, he created us in His image but added the ability for us to receive, so that we could

receive first from Him inside of our will and then flow it out to someone else. When we hold on to what God gives us, or we're not okay with what God gives us, then it absolutely stunts and breaks and dams up the ability - the River of Life - to give to others. That's why I can talk to someone or look at someone's life and say, this person is in the image of God because of the generosity that comes from them.

There's no way they could not give to someone else, or to tithe, or to contribute to the kingdom of God - it's *in* them to do so because they recognize that all things come from God. They don't covet anything. The only thing they covet is their relationship with God and staying in alignment with Him. So, if we want to say that God is good, then you cannot envy.

When we envy, we're literally shaking our fist at God and we're taking on the main attribute, the characteristic, of Satan himself. That's exactly what caused Lucifer to fall as the highest host of Heaven. He wanted more. He desired more than what God gave him and he felt like he should be the guy in charge. This is why so many churches split. Why am I talking so much about it? Because the church is broken. It's filled with men that are filled with envy and jealousy. Households fall because of envy and jealousy and selfishness and covetousness. So many. Did you know one of the largest fights, according to secular statistics, the number one cause of divorce is money. It's not adultery, it's money. It's fighting over the stress that has to do with money because we're constantly wanting more. The Bible says that when more comes, you want more. You're never ever satisfied. The soul that's in the greatest peace is the one that's fully satisfied.

All right. Here's some examples of breaking the tenth commandment. First of all, we already mentioned **number one** - Satan himself. He wanted to be God. You can't get any clearer a picture of breaking the tenth commandment. Then, by the way, breaking the tenth commandment automatically puts you into a place where you break the *second* commandment. We'll show you that in just a moment. You are making yourself an idol. The moment you envy someone else you're removing God from the picture and you're telling him he's not a good God and you're going to take over the position of God, which is breaking the *first* commandment and the *second* commandment automatically!

Then, by the way, when you do covet and you take from your neighbor, you're breaking the *eighth* commandment as well. You're breaking multiple commandments! You're stealing and there's all kinds of things that you're doing. You can see how one commandment causes you to break many commandments and this is why the Bible says that there is *no one righteous not even one*.

**Number two.** How about Adam? Adam wanted more than what he had. He looked at it, Eve looked at it. They saw that it was good to eat. She was envious, she was covetous of this fruit that was on this tree. A tree that God said *here's the wall, don't climb over it*. She climbed over it, her husband climbed over with her, and they ate of the tree of the fruit of knowledge of Good and Evil. It put him into the waters of chaos and it opened up the door for the enemy. The rest, unfortunately, is history. The waters of chaos moved across all the continents for all time.

**Number three.** King David and Bathsheba. What a great example! King David's up on his rooftop and he sees from his balcony on the rooftop to across the street at Bathsheba bathing. He wants her. He envies her. The battle is in the mind at that moment. It's not wrong when she came out there and he saw her naked for the first time; it was wrong when he looked the second time and the moment that he began to play with that in his mind, you see, it created a sadness. In his mind he said, *I want this* and then the enemy drug him away and the action followed. Envy always precedes an action that will produce death. That's exactly what happened, and it cost him his firstborn son.

**Number four.** Korah desired more power. One of the great leaders of Israel in the wilderness desired what Moses had. He was covetous, he was envious. This is an example of envy for a characteristic or for influence or power, and that led to false accusations, which is the ninth Commandment. We talked about that in the last video. That brings about a challenge of authority and will bring about the Judgment of God every single time. Absalom was the same exact way. He desired his father's authority and his anointing, and he got it through envy and covetousness. He displaced his father but ended up dead - hanging from a tree. Don't you find that interesting? There are parallels of Yeshua hanging on a tree and Absalom hanging on a tree.

As a side note, this is the connection. In the Book of Numbers, I believe it is. When Moses holds up the bronze serpent on the tree as the people are being killed by a plague and he says *anyone that looks at this will be healed*. What's going on here is the idea that Satan himself, the serpent, is the cause of all the people being bitten on the heel. Remember, the prophecy from Genesis? All right, they bruised the heel, but the Messiah will crush the head. This is the moment where it's prophesied that the bronze serpent is being impaled. The very serpent that is hurting you, if you will look and recognize that your sin is coming from the serpent, the moment you recognize that then you are in the process of repentance and you will be healed.

This is Absalom. Absalom is representing the serpent; he is the one that bit the heel of David which caused David to run, but God impaled Absalom and hung him from the tree. That's why Yeshua himself is hanging from the tree. It is that he is taking the position of Satan himself. Remember, on Yom Kippur, that the

high priest would put his hand on the Azazel goat, and he would confess all the sins of Israel on them. There were two goats - one is for Adonai - it's the goat of the Lord - that one's for God. The other one would be led out into the wilderness because that goat carried all the sins. There is an Absalom and then there's a Yeshua. There's one for the Lord and there's one for Satan and the power of what Yeshua did is that he did **both** on the cross. He took the place of the Azazel goat and he was the escape goat! All the sins were placed on him, but he also was the beautiful sacrifice of the goat for God that did nothing. That is the power behind the story of envy and covetousness, it ends in death. For the one that chooses not to envy, it ends in life, but in the one that chooses to cross over the wall, in the case of Absalom the actual wall of Jerusalem and took the castle from his father, it ends in death. In both cases, someone's going to be on a tree - one will have Resurrection Life, one will have death.

When we covet, we will naturally break the *second* commandment and fall into idolatry. I want to share this with you. It's in Colossians chapter 3 verse 5 and 6. Read it with me, it says the Apostle Paul wrote *'therefore put to death your members which are on earth - fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.'* You can see here that Paul understands, as a rabbi, that covetousness is idolatry.

The moment that we envy something else, somebody else's gift, and we're just not okay, and I've had those days, have you ever had those days? Days where you just flat out are just jealous of somebody else? For me, in my space, it's easy for me to get jealous of another influencer that has a larger following. Influencers and pastors and leaders begin to measure their worth and their value by how many subscribers, how many views, how many people are following them. How many likes, how many thumbs up, and they forget that there's only *one thumbs up* that really matters and that is the thumbs up from God! You know the donkey - someone shared this with me the other day and it impacted me greatly - but remember the donkey that brought the Messiah in to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday the week before he passes away? A few days before he dies, before Passover on the 10th of Nisan, the donkey rides in and the donkey is never used again. That animal was the greatest, most blessed animal ever in that time period and no one ever heard about that animal ever again. It accomplished its purpose.

Have we forgotten that God is not interested in our egos? God is not interested in pumping us up and making us feel great about ourselves, just for the sake of feeling great. He's interested in our humility and that we're willing to sacrifice that ego. If God just used us *one time* for *one person*, it was enough. Can anybody out there, right now, tell me who led Billy Graham to Christ? No. Almost nobody knows who it was that led Billy Graham to Christ, but somebody led him to Christ, and he led millions to Christ! What if that person was like the

donkey and that's the only thing they did? Why am I telling you this? Because most of us don't feel value; we don't feel appreciation and we don't feel purpose. So, we look everywhere around us and to everything else and we see that person has more things than I do therefore they must be more valuable. We see that people have more appreciation for them so they must have a greater purpose. It's a lie from the pit of hell! When you find out that you are loved by God...listen brothers and sisters, you were appreciated already before you were known in the womb. God knew you before that and He loved you. He gave his only begotten son for you. Everything that you have - the breath that comes out of your lungs - is from him. Understand, you don't need things; you don't even need other people to give you purpose. He is the purpose with a capital P. He is the appreciation with a capital A, and he is your value. Grasp on to the tallith, to the tzitzits and to the entire character of who Yeshua is. Understand that, and you will have peace, purpose, value, and appreciation when you fully recognize that you don't have to look outside. You just need to look within.

So, the next time that you feel that unhappiness, that sadness, inside of you because somebody else's life at that moment looks better, recognize that everyone is on a roller coaster, and we don't see people a lot of times when they're in the valley. Unless you're in the public eye. We see people when they're on the top of the roller coaster going fast and they're smiling, but most of the time we don't see the car wrecks, we don't see the depression, we don't see the hurt. All those things, all those material possessions, don't bring the inner peace that we really need .

My friends, I encourage you, go back through all these Ten Commandments. There's so much here for us as believers. Let's not gloss over them; let's not speed through them, and go, *okay I'm not going to envy* but oh, we do - every day! We're telling God he's not God; he's not a good God. I'm in charge and I don't need to rest, I don't need to honor people. I just need to do what I want to do all the time. We live our life in utter selfishness, replicating the sin of Adam and Eve, while we point the finger at Adam and Eve. We judge others, we slander, we gossip, we don't think the best of people. We eat our own. We don't love in every scenario, especially when we're hurt, and we certainly don't pray for our enemies. Yet we expect the God of the universe to answer our prayers! We're lucky if He even hears them because that's how wicked we have become.

My friends, at the end of this series, I pray that God has spoken to you like he's spoken to me. That he'll break your heart like he's breaking mine. That I have no room in my heart for ego, I have no room in my heart for arrogance, or pride to think that I am anything...that I have *anything* to offer, that I have been righteous before my king or that I deserve his favor. Outside the blood of Messiah, I deserve death. I pray that God blesses you. I pray that he keeps you ,as in the ancient prayer, the Aaronic blessing I pray *that his face shine upon*

*you, that is countenance will be lifted up over you.* At the end of the day, when the sun sets in your life, I pray that you will thank him for everything that he's given you. Whether it appears to be bad or whether it appears to be good, give him the glory He deserves for letting you breathe one more day to praise His name. There is none righteous, not even one. Let us not envy our neighbor but let us envy Christ who lived a perfect and incredibly obedient life. Let us seek to be in His image and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Amen

***Shalom my friend! This is Jim Staley***

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