

# Do Not Covet



**Bro. Ricky Cunningham**  
**Exodus 20:17-18**

If you have your Bibles, let's open to Exodus chapter 20 verse 17. This morning we conclude our summer series on the 10 Commandments. If you're a guest this morning, we've been preaching the 10 Commandments in the context of the whole book of Exodus, but we've divided the book of Exodus into three parts. The first part, God's Great Rescue. Then, the middle part, The 10 Commandments. Then, starting next Sunday, we will continue with chapters 20-40 as we talk about God With Us and it's going to be amazing when we begin to look at the temple God wanted built and how it foreshadows that one-day God would walk with his people literally in the person of his son, Jesus Christ.

So, we are excited about how this ends as God gets Israel to go in and possess the promise land. This morning, we are doing the tenth commandment from Exodus chapter 20 verse 17.

## **Scripture:**

**Exodus 20:17-18: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." 18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the**

**flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off**

Notice the use of the semi colon in verse 17. That is important. Then, notice the use of commas.

Celisa and I had prepared to have our grandkids over during the Fourth of July. On that night after the Fourth of July, we were going to celebrate personally with fireworks and the house, but we had some things come up so we didn't get to do that. I just want you to know just recently we had all the boys over and we shot off probably the last fireworks in the county that celebrated the Fourth of July.

Now, you have to get this picture. I'm down at the end of the yard, they're all on the porch with Mimish, and then I get ready for the finale. Now, I don't know about you, but my favorite part of a firework show is the grand finale. Amen?

So, I'm ready for the finale and I want everyone to be ready for the finale because my budget wasn't very large. So, I wanted them to know I was shooting the finale. I shot off the finale and 16 skyrockets went up in the sky one right after the other. It was absolutely amazing! And, when it got dark again, I could hear my three boys with Mimish. They were yelling, hooting, and hollering.

It was a wonderful firework show that Papaw presented to the family. I love the grand finale! I've been to firework displays before where I had just really wished they had shot them all off at one time and it was just one huge grand finale. But, you can just tell when it's building towards the grand finale.

Now, I don't know if you've ever thought about it or not, but this morning, the tenth commandment is the grand finale. See, the first nine have dealt with behavior. They've dealt with things that happen on the outside, but

this tenth commandment doesn't deal with what is happening on the outside. This commandment deals with what is happening on the inside.

You will remember that many times through the first nine commandment we turned to the New Testament to try and say... *woah, there is something deeper than thou shall not murder. Don't be angry with your brother. There is something deeper than not committing adultery and that is not lusting...* Well, this commandment deals with what's on the inside.

God knew that Israel could not go into the land and be the people he desired them to be unless they dealt with the heart of the issue and in many ways the heart of the issue in our unredeemed nature and unredeemed flesh is the desire to covet. You say... *Brother Ricky, how do you know this is the grand finale?...*

If you turn to the New Testament there was a man by the name of Paul who before he was Paul, was Saul, and as a Pharisee he made the statement that when it came to the law he was blameless. He was a man who was dedicated to carrying out and keeping all 613 laws of God believing if he did he could usher in the Messianic Kingdom and he said before the law he was blameless. But, if you will remember in Romans chapter seven, when he is giving his personal testimony of salvation of how he came to faith in Christ, which commandment was it that broke into his heart, opened his eyes to the truth that he was a sinner, and was in need of salvation? It was the tenth commandment- thou shall not covet.

Can you imagine that? Can you imagine being a person raised from your birth believing you were earning a right relationship with God and was perfectly carrying out God's law? Then, one day through the gospel, God breaks into your life with the commandment thou shall not covet and all of a sudden, you realize you're a sinner, dead, separated from God, and now you're in need of salvation?

See, this command gets to the core of our problem. And, that is not an external problem; it's an internal problem. It's the problem of coveting.

This starts early in life. As a matter of fact, we see it often at our house. You've seen it in your house.

Let me just put this in a personal context. It wouldn't matter which grandboy I choose, Crider, Finley, or Garnett. Get this picture, one of my grandboys is in the playroom playing with a toy and let's just say it's the red tractor. So, it doesn't matter which boy, Crider, Fin, or Garnett are playing with the red tractor.

I come home from my pastoral obligations. I come home, I run upstairs, and I see my grandboy playing with a toy. I don't just see one toy that he's playing with. I see, I hate to say this, but hundreds of toys, but, he's playing with THAT toy.

Now, I didn't know that one of the other grandsons was there, but all of a sudden, the other grandson bursts up the steps, comes down the hallway, grabs me by the leg, gives me a big hug, and then he heads into the playroom. There are hundreds of toys that he can choose to play with, but which toy does he want to play with? Yeah, the red tractor.

Now, that isn't the only red tractor in the room. It's just the only red tractor that the other grandson is playing with which happens to be his brother and because his brother is playing with that tractor he wants THAT tractor.

Has that ever happened at your house? Yes!

Two years old! Four years old! Six years old! Seven years old! Eight years old! They want what the other sibling has. They want what they shouldn't want and now we've got a problem. And, here's what I have to be careful of, my first tendency is to want to say to that grandson who is coveting, but doesn't realize he's coveting, "WAIT!" It doesn't matter if it's Crider, Fin, or Garnett I say, "WAIT!"

Then, I explain how he will lay it down and be tired of it and when he lays it down you can have your turn. I just told him to wait. It's okay to want what your brother has, just wait. I never dealt with what was wrong. You shouldn't want what someone else has. Or, maybe it's the older one playing with the toy. Have any of you grandparents ever said, "Ok, Crider, you've played with it long enough. Share!"

Are y'all hearing this? Even us grandparents, even us parents, and society does not want to recognize that in fallen human nature is a desire to not want what you should want, but to want what you shouldn't want and that is what someone else has.

See, here's what I think God knows. God knows when his people go into the land what's going to really give family problems, what's really going to give communities problems, and what's really going to give society problems is this inner desire to want what you shouldn't want. He knows sometimes that inner desire to want what you shouldn't want can actually cause you to do things that you never thought you would do before. And, sometimes, behind the breaking of the other commandments is the breaking of this commandment- thou shall not covet.

To covet literally means to long for, to desire, to crave, and to want. And, what the Bible is dealing with here is the wrong use of desire. There is a right use of desire and there is a wrong use of desire. So, what God is saying is don't long for the wrong things.

Now, what are the wrong things to long for? Things that do not belong to you. You should never crave them. You should never desire them.

Now, I want you to watch this. In the ESV there is a semi colon. You remember in English what the semi colon is used for. Then, after the semi colon, all the other phrases have commas. So, here is what the Bible is saying... *do not covet your neighbor's household. Don't want the life your neighbor has...* I'm not going to ask you to raise your hand, but how many of you have ever coveted somebody else's lifestyle? The Bible says don't!

Then, it gets specific what is in that household that you might want and it starts with his highest possession- his wife. Notice two times God says do not covet. Do not covet a man's household. Do not covet his life. Now what makes up his life? Well, his wife, his servants, and his stuff. Did y'all catch that? His spouse, his servants, and his stuff. Don't want his spouse. Don't want his servants. Don't want his stuff.

So, if you ever have the tendency to look at another man and wish... NO! Don't wish she was yours. That is wrong.

Now, today we don't have servants, we have employees. So, don't look at somebody else's life and wish you had their employees or their housekeeper or their whatever. That is wrong.

Now, you would never want his ox or his donkey. So, today that would be his tractor, his car, or his truck. It would be his RV, his camper, or his four-wheeler. I could just go on and on and on.

Just in case I'm not naming something that you deal with, the Bible deals with all of the other stuff too. Not once, but twice; don't covet. He just said don't murder once. He just said don't commit adultery once. He just said don't bear false witness once. But, when it comes to coveting he wants to make sure you understand, in general, don't want somebody else's life, but in particular don't want his wife, don't want his servants, and don't want his stuff.

Why? Because God knew if Israel went into the land and they didn't deal with their heart issue, even as his covenant people, it would fracture society and there would be a great consequence.

In the book of Joshua, when they finally get to the bank, the new generation goes in, and they come to that big city called Jericho, do you remember how they take the city? They march around the city and on the seventh day the walls fall down. Does everybody remember what God said

before they started that final march?... *Hey, guys, you're going to see some things and when you see those things, don't want those things because all of the things in the city have been devoted to destruction or to me. SO, they don't belong to you. They are mine or they are to be destroyed...* Then, the city fell.

Whooping and hollering! Yay! Partying!

They get over Jericho and now they have to go to Ai. They march towards Ai and the military said... *hey, Joshua, let's leave the majority of the army at home. We don't need everybody. Let's just send 3,000 men because it's just a little town. It's no big deal. We don't need but 3,000 people...*

Then, 3,000 people march on Ai and 36 men lose their life. Not a person fell at the battle of Jericho, that fortified city with walls.

The book of Joshua says Joshua fell on his knees and God said... *I'm not listening to your prayer. Get up off your knees. This is not a time of prayer. This is a time for you to search the camp because there is sin in the camp...*

Finally, the fault lied with a man named Achan. Achan is now standing before the military and standing before the people. Joshua says... *WHAT DID YOU DO?!...*

Achan said... *I saw a Babylonian garment, I saw silver, I saw gold, and I coveted it, I stole it, and I hid it under the rug in the floor of my tent...*

Now, if you're sitting here thinking that wasn't a big deal, would you just tell that to that wife whose husband didn't come home from the battle of Ai that day? Would you tell that to that mommy whose son didn't come home that day from battle? Would you look in the eye of that little girl and little boy waiting for Daddy to come and Daddy didn't come home? Achan broke the command of God and when Achan broke the command of God Israel broke the command of God.

One of the biggest mistakes you and I make is that we don't see ourselves in community. We do not see ourselves in solidarity with the church. Therefore, we don't understand that when we sin the church sins. Because, you are us; we are you.

Do you remember the next time we see it? A man is not where he's supposed to be and that man just happens to be the king. He looks out over his kingdom, he sees a beautiful woman bathing, and he coveted her. He asked who she was and knew she was the wife of Uriah, a man who served him in his army. He coveted her, brought her to himself, and took her.

She got pregnant.

Would somebody tell me this, do you really believe that when David saw and coveted he ever thought he would commit adultery with her? A man after God's own heart! If David could back up, do any of you think he'd stop because he would have never believed if you told him if he didn't deal with what was in his heart it could lead him to have a man killed it battle to hide his sin? If we could back up and say to David, "David, if you exercise this thought of coveting, the baby that is going to be conceived from adultery is going to die," do you think he would have still done it? Do you think if someone would have told David that as a result of him coveting his wives would be concubines for another man, the kingdom would be turned in two, and there would be turmoil for his family forever?

He wouldn't have believed it. And, you don't believe it either.

What this last commandment is saying in being the grand finale is don't think for a second you can keep the first nine externally if you don't deal with what is going on inside your heart and that is a heart that covets and it's a heart that wants things that doesn't belong to yourself. God puts it in that local commandment as a man living next door to his neighbor. There must be peace and there must be community for us to be God's people



and he doesn't want those relationships to be shattered because you haven't dealt with what's wrong with you yet.

So, he says don't covet three times. Don't covet your neighbor's spouse, servants, or stuff. Don't covet. Don't want what you're not supposed to want.

Do you remember Ahab from 1 Kings 21? He was a king that came home one day, looked, and saw Naboth's vineyard. He wanted it. He coveted it.

He said to Naboth... *hey, Naboth, I want your vineyard because I really need another garden and your vineyard would make a great garden for me. So, I'll get you a better vineyard somewhere else and if you don't want a better vineyard somewhere else I'll just pay you full value for it...*

Naboth said... *no, I can't sell it. It's been in my family for generations. I can't sell it...*

Do you know what King Ahab did? He went home and he pouted because he couldn't get what didn't belong to him. And, he had a doozy of a wife, amen? Her name was Jezebel. Jezebel was that woman who wanted to please her man.

She met him at the door and said... *honey, what's wrong?...*

He was pouting and he told her the story that Naboth said no. She reminded him of who he was. He was the king and she couldn't believe he didn't put his foot down and just take that vineyard. But, he went to bed that night pouting and crying sad.

She got together with the royal court and she said... *give me two worthless fellows to be Naboth tomorrow. Those two worthless fellows are going to say they heard Naboth curse God and curse the king. Then, we are going to execute him...*

They executed Naboth. Then, do you know what Ahab did? He went and took the vineyard.

Now, here is what this could make you want to do, this could make you want to believe that this is so bad we just don't need to see anything. But, that's not true because you could not see things and still want things that you shouldn't want.

Just the other day I looked in my closet and my work jeans were getting really bad. My wife is here so she's going to hear me say this, but pretty soon she's going to say to me, "Ricky, we need to go get you some new work jeans." And, I dread it because if I can just be honest with you, if I stay out of those stores I don't ever want anything. But, we are going to go to town and get two pairs of work jeans and when we go into that place to get my two pairs of work jeans I'm going to see other things that I don't need but I'm going to want and there is going to be a battle because I just might covet something I shouldn't covet. That's what this is dealing with.

Some of you are saying... *hold up, Brother Ricky, we don't really have this problem today because if you just see something your neighbor's got you don't have to get what they've got you can just go get your own...* Well, this is dealing with that, too.

See, as long as I stay on the farm I don't want. No, I'm just not tempted to want. I want to get to the place where I can go where I'm supposed to go and never want what I shouldn't want and only want what I really need. That is what this is dealing with, but it's tough because we live in a world where there are two kingdoms.

Mark Buchanan in a Christianity Today article said it best when he talked about the kingdom we are really fighting against and that's the kingdom of God fighting against the kingdom of stuff. You know what the message of the kingdom is, right? Repent for the kingdom of God is here, Jesus said. But, the message of this other kingdom is crave and spend for the kingdom of stuff is here.

Mark Buchanan calls this the cult of the next thing. See, what this commandment is dealing with is this thought- I really just need one more thing. Have any of you ever thought if you just got the next car, the next RV, the next boat, the next piece of property, or the business you would be satisfied? Don't raise your hand, but you're raising your hand, right? It didn't satisfy, did it?

So, what's happening now is we are worshipping at the cult of the next thing and in order for this to be a religion or a cult, we have to have sacred words just like the church has. You know, the church has sacred words- baptism, salvation, communion, and Jesus. Well, this cult has its sacred words, too- new, improved, better, longer-lasting, and user-friendly.

Now, you've got to have rituals, right? So, in the kingdom of stuff we have a ritual- shopping sprees, instant credit, 50% off, or interest free for 90 days.

Now, you also have to have a temple if we are going to worship the kingdom of stuff. Don't you love to go to the mall? Amen? And, just worship the cult of the next thing. Now, I know it's a new age and all of us can't go to the temple so let's just bring the temple to us- Amazon.com- right in the personal safety and security of your very own home.

Then, you have to have clergymen, right? We have to have pastors if we are going to really promote the kingdom of stuff. So, we have some really good marketing, some really great ads, some really great salesmen, and let's also throw in a few celebrities because by the way, we should all switch razors. I mean, if Brett Favre shaves at the shaving club then we ought to go to the shaving club too!

What's the message? Crave it! Spend! For, wow, you and I are in the kingdom of stuff!

I have sadly said to folks that if I ever rebuild that I will build my house the size of my garage and my garage the size of my house because for me to really live I just need about the size of a garage, but to store all of my stuff the one garage on the side of the house won't do it. I've got to have my own personal shed for all of the stuff. And, the more stuff I get... you know where I'm going, right?

Stuff in and of itself is not sinful. But, the desire, the craving, the longing for what doesn't belong to us and what we don't need is sinful before God and he says he doesn't want it in his church! As a matter of fact, when we turn to the New Testament in Colossians 3:5, Paul is going to call coveting idolatry.

Now, listen to me, if you find yourself always having to have the next thing, the next thing, the next thing, and the next thing, Paul says that is idolatry. You have put covetousness and you have put physical things in the place of God and God is not happy because you are an idolator.

In Ephesians 5:3, Paul names three sins- sexual sin, impurity, and covetousness- and then he says which is not proper and should not be named among the saints. So, listen to this. The apostle Paul puts covetousness on the same level of sexual sin and impurity and he says it shouldn't be named in the church because that is not fitting saints.

Jesus, in Luke chapter 12, was teaching and had a man come to him. The man said in verse 13, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But, he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Many of us would believe that our kids have too many toys. I ask you, do you have too many toys? It's one thing to have toys that you can't get into the toy box, but it's another thing to be a man and have so many toys that you can't get them all in the toy box.

See, if we're not careful we have fallen into consumerism. In my personal opinion, at the heart of capitalism to a certain degree, is covetousness—that need to buy more than we need. Therefore, all marketing hits at the unredeemed flesh of man. So, it's not just about the nature of my product anymore; it's about the nature of man and how what you're selling is what I need so that I can be happy. Wow!

Here is a man who now has an inheritance coming to him and his brother is not giving him what's his. He goes to Jesus. Jesus takes this situation, which we all deal with because if you're a sibling there is going to be a day that probably something is going to come to you and some of you are going to feel like you got cheated just like this guy did. He goes to Jesus and Jesus says... *hey, take care. Be aware. Watch out. Take guard. Guard your heart against all forms of covetousness...*

See, he's not coveting his neighbor's wife, his neighbor's servants, his neighbor's employees, or his neighbor's stuff. It looks like he just wants HIS stuff, but his brother has possession of it. It looks like part of it is his and Jesus is warning him against all kinds of covetousness. Then, he makes this statement...*for a man's life does not consist of his possessions...*

Now, I think every one of us would raise our hand here and say... *Amen, I believe that!...* Our life is not measured by what we possess. But, look at what we're doing! We want more and more and more and more and more. The way many of us measure our success is how much bigger everything is getting and how much more we are attaining and we love to flash our net worth. Why? Because we fall into that trap that a man is measured by what he possesses because somehow that is an indicator of hard work. Jesus is warning all of us against covetousness, of wanting what we don't need, of wanting what is not ours, and this insatiable desire to get more and more and more because what we are really believing is just the next tractor, the next boat, the next house, the farm, the next job, or the next promotion.

So, do you know what is going to happen? There is somebody that is underneath you that may not want your wife or your stuff, but they would love to have your status. So, they will undermine you because they are going to get your title. And, do you know what? It just might be someone in the church who has never really dealt with what is on the inside and there's a war going on.

James 4:2 clearly teaches that you covet and have not, so you fight and you fuss. That is what it leads to when we covet and can't get it. It leads to fussing and fighting and that is what Jesus is warning about here.

I like what he goes on to say in verse 16, "And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

This parable is of the rich farmer who prided himself in what he did, thought he had life made, and said to himself, I can quit working, relax, eat, drink, and be merry, this is in the context of covetousness. He is wanting to obtain enough stuff that he could then rely on what he's done, use all these things for him, and Jesus called him a fool. He said you can be rich in treasure and not be rich in God. Wow!

I want to be careful here, but I want to be clear here. This almost describes the American dream. Work and work and work and work to get to the place where I can relax, eat, drink, be merry, and trust in what I've got and what I've done to sustain me for the rest of my life. At the root of that and the heart of that, according to Jesus, could possibly be covetousness. You and I desiring a life God does not want us to desire because at the root of that heart that covets is a lack of contentment.

Let's look at 1 Timothy chapter 6. Now, the previous verses are talking about someone who is trying to use godliness for gain. Woah, be careful! There are a lot of people who use God to get rich and to get gain. They think gain follows godliness.

So... *MAN, WOW! LOOK HOW THE LORD HAS BLESSED ME!...* Really?! God has given you all of these things, but you aren't in church anymore, you're not this, and you don't this. ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! You think God would do that? NO! You got it yourself. Be honest! You worked hard for it and it's yours. You have treasure in yourself. That is what this is dealing with.

Now, there is great gain in godliness with contentment. See, here is what the church in America believes- godliness plus great gain equals contentment. Did you hear that? Godliness plus great gain equals contentment... *If I live a godly life, get one more thing, just get the house paid, just get, just get, and just get, I'm going to be content one day...* Right? But, where is contentment? In the next purchase and in the next thing. That is not what this is saying.

Now, godliness. There is great gain in godliness with contentment. Let's look at verse 6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction."

Brother Ricky didn't say that; God did. If you have a temptation to be rich be careful! What you're looking for may not be a blessing of God and just may bring the ruin of your spiritual life is what Paul is saying. Continuing in verse 10, "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."

Now look at Hebrews 13:5, "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Philippians 4:11 "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

In closing, coveting never leads to contentment. Never! So, if you have this thought... *when I get there or I get there, or, I get this or I get that...* it won't happen. It will never happen. Never ever, ever!

So, what brings contentment? Quit pursuing happiness and start pursuing holiness as the church of Jesus Christ.

I know our constitution guarantees life, liberty and the pursuit of what? Happiness. Did you know originally it was going to be the pursuit of property because the original founding fathers had such a life of economic burden and had so many things taken away from them in Europe that they wanted everybody to be able to pursue property? But, they changed it.

The constitution of Jesus Christ does not guarantee you the pursuit of happiness, but it guarantees you the pursuit of holiness. And, I promise you this, if you pursue happiness you will never be content because not even happiness can give you what you ultimately desire because what God has designed you to desire as a Christian is to be holy.

So, how do I pursue holiness?

First, I know who I am in Christ and I understand that my identity is not based on anything I do. So, the next thing I get or don't get is not going



to have anything to do with who I am in Christ. And, I draw my security, not from what I do, but who I am in Christ and what Christ has done for me on a cross. He made me holy. He set me apart. I am sacred to him. I am special. I am unique.

Is that awesome or is that awesome? Amen!?

Now, once I know who I am in Christ, the second thing is I need to know what my purpose is. Why am I here? That's to bring honor and glory to God. Amen? Does everybody get that?

Now, if I know who I am and I know why I'm here- to bring honor and glory to God- then I can now filter what I need and what I don't need from knowing who I am and what my purpose is. So, I know who I am- I'm a believer- and I know why I'm here- to bring honor and glory in my particular area of life. Then, I can now filter decisions about what I need through that filter. This lets me walk into a place and I don't buy something I don't need.

I close with this story. One of my wife's favorite shows on TV when the grandkids are over is The Little House on the Prairie. How many of you would love to go back and have Olsen's General Store in this community? You could walk in everyday, there is Mr. Olsen, you give him your list, and while he's going and filling your list in walks Mrs. Olsen. Then, before you leave the store you meet little Nellie- Greek for devil. Amen? Can I just say that? Now, if your name is Nellie, I'm sorry I said that, but you have to love that story!

Now, watch this! In the days of The Little House on the Prairie you left home and went shopping for a purpose. You knew what you needed, you had it on a list, and you gave it to Mr. Olsen. And, have you ever noticed this, most of the things that Mr. Olsen gets you never see him getting because they're not out on the public display of the store. They're back in the store house.

So, he disappears and comes back with all of your stuff that you need. That changed. Does anybody know when that changed? It changed with The Woolworth Five and Dime store. Are any of you old enough to remember The Woolworth Five and Dime store? All of a sudden, that great pioneer of retail marketing decided we can't sell stuff if it's back in the store house. We have to get all of the stuff out in the storeroom. So, they brought all of the stuff from outback and into the storeroom and now a man walks into the store and he now want things he didn't know he needed.

Covetousness in America turned wild and rampant! If many of us would be honest, we are laying up treasures for ourself and we have no thought for the kingdom of God because we are enamored and we are worshipping at the alter of the kingdom of stuff. Along with no more adultery, no more coveting. But, here's the problem, I don't know if you are or not.

Have you noticed how many of our civil laws are based on The 10 Commandments except we have no civil law about not coveting? Because how would I know? I don't know, but God does and you do. So, the next time you look at me and say... *I can't believe Brother Ricky...* just tell yourself you were just wrong to do what you did. Then the next time I look at you and think that about you, I'm going to remind myself that no, I don't know if you're coveting or not because in God's economy for you, I don't really know what you need, but you do.

Let's so desire to be holy and to accomplish his purpose that we channel this inner desire of wrongness and channel it correctly. That is why Paul wrote to the church at Corinth and said... *hey, covet earnestly spiritual gifts...*

Do you know what that means? If you really want to covet something then covet pouring your life into the life of a preschooler or a child on First Fruits Farm. Wow! Instead of being rich in goods you'll be rich in God! Instead of desiring all of the things of the world, maybe desire to pour your life into middle schoolers, come alongside Nick, and be rich in God, not rich

in goods. Who knows what might happen to you and me if we truly decide to pursue holiness and not happiness.

KT