

Attitude Check

Lesson Four • Numbers 11:4-35

A Covetous Attitude

Attitude Check: Replacing a Covetous Attitude

Covetousness is an attitude that BLOCKS the flow of God's fullness and joy in our lives.

What Is Covetousness?

Covetousness is WANTING wrong things or WANTING right things for the wrong reasons, or at the wrong time, or in the wrong amount.

Three Acts of Covetousness

Act I: The SIN of Covetousness

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? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" Numbers 11:4-6

- When we YIELD to our desires, covetousness becomes active sin.
- When we DWELL on our desires, yielding is only a matter of time.

Why Does God Hate Covetousness So Much?

At the root of covetousness is a REJECTION of God's sufficiency for our lives.

Now Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. Numbers 11:10

Act II: The SURPRISE of Covetousness

"Then you shall say to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the Lord, saying, 'Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.' Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the Lord who is among you..." Numbers 11:18-20

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

- With God we can be satisfied with very little, but without God all that we have will be DISAPPOINTING.
- Beware of begging God for nonessentials, because in time we may HATE what we had to have.

Act III: The CONSEQUENCES of Covetousness

Now a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. And the people stayed up all that day, all that 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. But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. Numbers 11:31-33

- Covetousness DISTORTS our thinking to the point where enough is never enough.
- Covetousness DESTROYS our joy and makes life feel like a barren desert.

Replacing a Covetous Attitude

Will a "GRAVE OF CRAVING" be waiting for you because of a covetous attitude?

So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving. Numbers 11:34