

Covetousness

Day 1

Prayer: 1 John 2:17 "Lord, help me remember that this world and its desires will pass away, but the person who does the will of God lives forever."

Meditation: Read James 4:1-3. Write out verse one.

Observation: What causes fights and quarrels among people? What keeps us from receiving what we want?

Application: In the most recent fight you've had with someone, what was the underlying cause? What do you desire that causes you to covet?

Prayer: Ask God to reveal and forgive any covetousness in your life.

Day 2

Prayer: Colossians 3:5 "Lord, help me put to death all that belongs to my earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."

Meditation: Read Luke 12:13-21. Write out verse 15.

Observation: What warning does Jesus give in verse 15? Describe how the rich man thought and behaved. What was God's response to the rich man's behavior? What will happen to those who store up things for themselves but aren't rich toward God?

Application: Which of your possessions means the most to you? What do you want more of? How can you make sure your desires do not become greed?

Prayer: Ask God to help you stay on guard against all kinds of greed.

Day 3

Prayer: Matthew 6:33 "Lord, be my strength so I will seek You and Your righteousness first in my life before all other things."

Meditation: Read Exodus 20:1-17. Write out verses 3 & 17.

Observation: What is the first commandment God gave His people (vs. 3)? What is the last commandment (vs. 17)?

Application: How are the first and last commandments related? What types of "gods" do people put before the living God? Describe in your own words what it means to covet.

Prayer: Ask God to show you how you have desired other things more than Him.

Day 4

Prayer: Acts 20:35 "Lord, help me remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Meditation: Read I Timothy 6:17-19. Read the same verses again from the Message: "Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage--to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life."

Observation: What commands are given in this passage? According to verse 17 what does God do for us? How do we lay up treasure for the coming age?

Application: What or whom do you put your hope in? What are some practical ways you can do good to others, be generous, and share what you have?

Prayer: Ask God to show you how He wants you to live out these verses.

Day 5

Prayer: Hebrews 13:5 "Lord, teach me to keep my life free from the love of money and be content with what I have because You will never leave me nor forsake me."

Meditation: Read Philippians 4:10-13. Write out verse 13.

Observation: What lesson had Paul learned? What is the secret of being content?

Application: What circumstances are you undergoing that you need more contentment with? How can verse 13 help you learn to be more content?

Prayer: Ask God to help you learn to be more content no matter what the circumstances.