



Godliness with contentment is Great Gain. 1 Timothy 6:6



Bible Study:

Read Exodus 20:17. Contemplate how easy it is to read and agree with intellectually. Sure, it makes perfect sense; don't covet. Instead, be content. This tenth command ACTUALLY and LITERALLY gets to the HEART (root) of all sins. James chapter 1 tells us clearly that evil desire, which starts in the heart (sin inside), gives way to sin (acted out). This section of scripture also gives clear guidance of how to protect your heart against coveting – LOOK INTENTLY INTO THE **PERFECT LAW**. And as followers of Christ, we have the Holy Spirit Inside us so that we CAN look into the perfect Law.

Read 1 Kings Chapter 21 and consider the story of Ahab and how his desire for something that did not belong to him led to the murder of an innocent man and Ahab's line of succession being cut off.



The gospel in the story:

This is the first of a series of lessons that will seek to reconcile guidance prescribed in the apostles' letters (epistles) with the larger picture of our part in the story of God. The intent is that we will be ON GUARD against looking at this guidance as a set of rules to obey, but instead humbly recognize that the only way to *live the law* is to LOVE THE LAW. And the only way to *love the Law* is to LOVE GOD MORE AND MORE EACH DAY.

In this series, we will have weekly bible verses but they all fall under this profoundly important guidance written by Paul which defines a clear and profound difference between the letter of the law and the SPIRIT OF THE LAW:

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the LORD who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18.

All of those psalms that proclaim the wonderful excellencies of God's law, are not referring to the letter of the law, but to the SPIRIT OF THE LAW which is a direct look into GOD's TRUE NATURE.

Ahab was arguably the most wicked king in Israel's history. He repented in deep humility and God took notice. The same Lord who was merciful to Ahab is merciful to us. No matter how evil you have been, it is never too late to humble yourself, turn to God and ask for forgiveness.

Application:

Head: What did we learn?

Q: Who was Naboth? A: An Israelite.

Q: What did king Ahab want from him? A: His vineyard.

Q: What did king Ahab do when Naboth wouldn't sell it to him? A: He KEPT wanting it!!!

Q: How could GOD have helped if Ahab would have asked? A: He would give him a heart like God's which is to be content!

Heart: "Godliness with contentment is great gain." 1 Timothy 6:6

Our hearts are prone to believing that we should get what we want, but God's word tells us that only he satisfies. Believing and acting on these sinful desires gives birth to sinful actions that drive us further from God. In Ahab's case from anger and rebellion against God (because he couldn't get what he wanted) to rage, hatred and murder.

Head: What did we learn?

Everyone struggles with wanting what we don't have. Any time that happens, we have the choice of giving into want, or using it as an opportunity to spend time with the GOD who is always satisfied and wants to give us HIS SATISFACTION!