

# The Lost Commandment

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Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler  
Luke 18:18-23

“You know the commandments...”

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- Do not commit adultery
- Do not murder
- Do not steal
- Do not bear false witness
- Honor your father and mother

# The Ten Commandments

## Ex. 20:2-21

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Preamble: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage:

- I. You shall have no other gods before Me
- II. You shall not make for yourself a carved image...
- III. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...
- IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...

- V. Honor your father and mother...
- VI. You shall not murder
- VII. You shall not commit adultery
- VIII. You shall not steal
- IX. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
- X. You shall not covet...

# The Lost Command: Do Not Covet

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“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.”

Exodus 20:17

# Covet

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- To fix the desire upon, whether things good or bad; to long for, to lust after, to covet

# Covetousness

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- A desire to have more, always in a bad sense. Is used in a general way of
  - Material possessions
  - Sensuality

# The Lost Command: Do Not Covet

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“For **the love of money** is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

1 Timothy 6:10

# Does this apply to me?

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“Take heed and beware of **covetousness**, for one’s life does not consist of the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Luke 12:15



# Does this apply to me?

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“Take heed and beware of **a desire to have more**, for one’s life does not consist of the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Luke 12:15

# Black Friday 2011 – Los Angeles, CA

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“Black Friday took an ugly turn at a Los Angeles Wal-Mart when a female shopper - desperate to get her hands on discounted electronics – pepper-sprayed a crowd to keep them away from the merchandise she wanted.

At least 20 shoppers suffered minor injuries and police are still looking for the woman.”

# Black Friday 2011 – Pittsburgh, PA

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“One of the most climactic parts of the day was at Victoria’s Secret, where a hot deal on yoga pants had some women fuming. ‘Literally, girls were punching each other,’ said shopper Liz Wentling.”

# Black Friday 2011 – Charleston, WV

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“A man collapsed while doing some Black Friday shopping in a crowded store, and people nearby continued to shop.

Witnesses tell [reporters] some shoppers walked around and even over the man's body.

Family members tell [reporters] that Walter Vance, of Logan County, W.Va., passed away after being taken to the hospital.

It happened at Target in ... South Charleston about 12:15 a.m. Friday. ”

# Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler

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- Ignoring even one of God's commands will leave us spiritually unsatisfied – Mat. 19:20

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- One thing can prevent us from inheriting eternal life
- Ignoring even one of God's commands will leave us spiritually unsatisfied – Mat. 19:20
- The greatest teacher cannot change the hardened heart



# Am I Covetous? Luke 12:13-21

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- Do I have a constant desire for more?
- Am I discontented with what I have materially? Heb. 13:5

# Hebrews 13:5

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Let your conduct be without covetousness;  
be content with such things as you have.  
For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER  
LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

# Am I Covetous? Luke 12:13-21

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- Do I find it difficult to give cheerfully? 2 Cor. 9:7

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- Do I find it difficult to give cheerfully? 2 Cor. 9:7
- Is my primary consideration when making decisions the effect it will have on my balance sheet?
- Do I lose my temper in disputes over material things?
- Have I succumbed to any of the sins that spring from covetousness?

# Sins Springing from Covetousness

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- Lying/fudging about money issues - 1 Sam. 15:9



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**“Covetousness, which is idolatry” - Col. 3:5**

# Colossians 3:5

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Therefore **put to death** your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry.**

# Defeating Covetousness

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- Acknowledge the dangers of covetousness
  - Mk. 7:20-23; Eph. 5:3

## Mark 7:20-23

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And He said, "**What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.** 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, **covetousness**, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

# Ephesians 5:3

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But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;



# Defeating Covetousness

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- Acknowledge the dangers of covetousness
  - Mk. 7:20-23; Eph. 5:3
- Practice liberal giving – Lk. 18:22

## Luke 18:22

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So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

# Defeating Covetousness

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- Acknowledge the dangers of covetousness  
– Mk. 7:20-23; Eph. 5:3
- Practice liberal giving – Lk. 18:22
- Practice God-centered planning – Lk. 16:13

# Luke 16:13

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"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**"

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- Practice liberal giving – Lk. 18:22
- Practice God-centered planning – Lk. 16:13
- Identify/rebuke covetousness in ourselves and others – 1 Cor. 5:11

# 1 Corinthians 5:11

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But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, **or covetous**, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner -- not even to eat with such a person.

“You know the commandments...”

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- Even Jesus cannot change the hardened heart



“One thing you lack...?”

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“Do not covet...”