

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE SIN OF COVETOUSNESS

International Sunday School Lesson for December 11, 1938

Golden Text: "Thou shalt not covet."—Exodus 20:17.

Lesson Text: Exodus 20:17; Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:7-10

The Tenth, and last Commandment for our consideration in this series of lessons is, "Thou shalt not covet." This is a law against the sin which is probably the base of all sins, because out of it spring lying, deceit, murder, adultery, dishonesty, dishonor of parents, desecration of the Sabbath and even idolatry.

Just what is covetous? According to the dictionary, it is the inordinate desire to possess, especially money. Its essential meaning is "to set the heart on" or very literally, "to pant after." The sin of covetousness is the greedy desire to possess something which belongs to another which so often ends in violent acts against another—oppression, cheating and even murder—in order to gain possession of the thing coveted.

This sin has been evident since the beginning of time. Eve, seeing the forbidden fruit hanging on the tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden, thought nothing else so desirable and, in order to possess it, disobeyed the command of God. Cain coveted the favor of God that his brother Abel received. His covetousness generated insane jealousy which resulted in the murder of his brother. Achan desired the beautiful Babylonian garment and the ingot of gold so much that he was willing to barter his honesty and his country's honor in order to obtain them. David coveted Uriah's wife and, in order to possess her, had Uriah murdered. Ahab desired possession of the thriving vineyard of Naboth and his covetousness brought upon him the condemnation and wrath of God and a death like that of a dog.

Instance after instance of covetousness and its dire results is recorded in the Bible. This should serve as a warning to us, but, it doesn't. Even in this fair land of ours, covetousness is a prevailing sin. The greedy desire to get, merely for the pleasure of getting often times, leads many to oppression, deception and even to murder.

Ruskin differentiated between the

legitimate desire for wealth and the illegitimate desire which culminates in covetousness, when he declared, "The desire for wealth is good as long as we have some use for the riches we acquire; it deteriorates into mere covetousness as soon as we crave to possess it for the sake of possessing it and apart from any use to which we propose to put it."

Covetousness deprives us of a most wonderful possession—contentment. The more we feed it, the more it demands. There probably never was a time in the history of the world when people and nations were so anxious to have everything everybody else has. If we could only get to the place where we could be satisfied with what we have and take time to be thankful for and enjoy that, we would be a more contented, restful people in a more peaceful world.

Covetousness is the cause of the upset conditions of the world today. The greedy desire of nations to possess that which lawfully and rightfully belongs to another is the cause of much of the unrest which afflicts many of the nations of the world. The terrible oppression of the Jews in Germany has as its basic cause the covetousness of the governmental authorities for the material possessions accumulated by this race of people there. Apparently jealous of their ability and resourcefulness in acquiring wealth, the decision to dispossess them, with consequent oppression and persecution, inevitable followed.

Quick to condemn such flagrant acts of covetousness on the part of others, let us not forget that they themselves refrain from covetousness, national acts will reflect their personal attitudes.

The Bible does not condemn theft nor the acquiring of wealth. Jesus never did so. However, he gave warning after warning against the putting of the accumulation of material possessions before the acquiring or laying up of spiritual possessions.

In our Scripture reference for this lesson, he warned against covetousness, declaring, "For a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." If we will remember to seek "first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," all things material which are necessary to our well-being will be given us by the God whom we love and whom we endeavor to serve."

Boyce and Miss Lennie Wilson visited Mrs. Riddick Chappell and Mrs. Winslow, in Hertford, Thursday.

Mrs. Rufus Garrett has returned to her home after visiting her aunt, Miss Tommie J. Goodwin.

Horace Lane, of Norfolk, Va., was here Sunday to attend the funeral of his grandmother, Mrs. Silas Goodwin.

Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Furry spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Goodwin and Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Leary.

Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Bunch, of Norfolk, Va., dined with Mr. Bunch's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Bunch, on Sunday.

Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Walston, Miss Lucy Myers White and Willie Monds attended services at the M. E. Church in Edenton Sunday evening and heard the new preacher, Rev. W. C. Benson.

Miss Lillian Ellis and Miss Garnet Jernigan spent the week-end with relatives in Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. Rufus Smithson and son, of Edenton, spent Monday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Lane.

Sheriff and Mrs. J. Alvah Bunch, of Edenton, visited Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Chappell Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. J. M. Turner, her daughter, Miss Lillian Turner, and sons, Charlie and Wilford Turner, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Turner on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Lane and daughter, of Norfolk, Va., visited Mr. Lane's mother, Mrs. W. H. Lane, on Sunday.

Mrs. J. S. Turner and children, Robert and Peggy, Mrs. Otis Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Byrum and their daughter, Shirley, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Copeland, in Edenton, on Friday.

Mrs. Emmett Jones has returned to her home in Norfolk, Va., after spending last week with her aunt, Mrs. Ida Reed. Mr. Jones came to accompany his wife home.

Mrs. Mattie Pallen, accompanied by a friend, visited her sister, Mrs. Lane, near Belvidere, Sunday.

Mrs. Will Byrum and daughter, Shirley, spent Wednesday with Mrs. Byrum's mother, Mrs. Charlie Hollowell.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Jordan and two sons, of Norfolk, Va., Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Jordan were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Jordan on Sunday.

CLASSIFIED AND LEGALS

FOR SALE—FRIGIDAIRE, USED 12 months. Will sell at a sacrifice. Apply to Mrs. Ellie Goodwin, Hertford, N. C.

FOR SALE—HUDSON DELUXE 1928 Sedan. Truly a fine driving car, excellent condition, very low mileage, a rare bargain. Apply to Mrs. V. A. Holden, Hertford, N. C.

FOR RENT—ONE 2-HORSE FARM and one 4-horse farm. Both well located. New buildings, good soil and well drained. References required and necessary to apply promptly to Farm Bureau, Hertford, N. C., P. O. Box 128.

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FOR SALE—HUDSON DELUXE 1928 sedan. Truly a fine driving car, excellent conditions, very low mileage, a rare bargain. Apply to Mrs. V. A. Holden, Hertford, N. C.

SOY BEANS—THE BEST PLACE to sell or store. E. L. Reed Warehouse, Hertford, N. C.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND Under and pursuant to the terms

of a certain Deed of Trust executed by George L. Turner and wife on the 17th day of March, 1938, which Deed of Trust is recorded in Book 21, Page 52, Perquimans County Registry, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness therein secured, and at the request of the holder of the note secured in said Deed of Trust, the undersigned will on Thursday, January 5, 1939, between the hours of twelve o'clock noon and one o'clock P. M., offer for sale at public auction, for cash, in front of the Courthouse Door in Hertford, North Carolina, the following described property:

A certain tract of land lying and being in Perquimans County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

Situated in New Hope Township, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Beginning on the South side of the Durant's Neck Road at a point South 56 degrees, 15 minutes East 9.16 chains from a gate which stands 4.88 chains from the Brickhouse Road, and running thence along said Durants Neck Road South 56 degrees 15 minutes East 11.64 chains to a point opposite the mouth of lane; thence continuing along Durant's Neck Road South 44 degrees 15 minutes East 39.76 chains to the Barclift lane; thence along said lane South 38 degrees 45 minutes West to the middle of Pottor Creek; thence Westery along Potters Creek to Muddy Creek; thence northwardly along Muddy Creek to Jesse's Creek; thence northwardly along Jesse's Creek to a point which will be reached by beginning at the mouth of a lane on the South side of the Durant's Neck Road and which is the point of the beginning of this description, and running thence South 57 degrees 30 minutes West 25 chains; thence North 29 degrees West 2 chains; thence North 57 degrees East 2.52 chains to said point in Jesse's Creek; thence S. 57 degrees West 2.52 chains; thence N. 29 degrees East 2 chains; thence North 57 degrees 30 minutes East 25 chains to the beginning, containing 614 acres, and being the same land as described in deed from Virginia-Carolina Joint Stock Land Bank to George L. Turner, recorded in Deed Book 21, page 470, Perquimans County Registry.

C. P. HARRIS, Jr., Trustee. Wilson, North Carolina. Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Having qualified as executors of the estate of Chas. Johnson, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of

deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Hertford, N. C., on or before the 25 day of November, 1938, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 25 day of November, 1938. CHAS. E. JOHNSON, LILLIE H. JOHNSON, Executors of Chas. Johnson. Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Jan. 6

NOTICE

By virtue of a deed of trust executed to me by Thomas L. Jessup for certain purposes therein mentioned, which said deed of trust bears date of February 24th, 1928, and is registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of Perquimans County in Book D 17, page 68, I shall, at the request of the holder of the notes secured thereby, on Monday, the 19th day of December, 1938, at 11:30 A. M., offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash at the Court House Door in Hertford, Perquimans County, part of the property conveyed in said deed of trust as follows:

That certain tract of land in Bethel Township, Perquimans County, N. C., adjoining the lands of Major & Loomis Co., the I. N. White land, the Gatling heirs land and others and known as the R. B. Cox peccan lands containing 378 1/2 acres, and being same tract conveyed to J. J. Fleetwood by P. H. Small and wife by deed duly recorded in Book 11, page 336, Perquimans County records, and being designated as 2nd tract in said deed of trust.

This November 16th, 1938. CHAS. WHEDEBEE, Trustee. Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16

Deeds office of Perquimans County for which see further description. This November 19th, 1938.

J. C. BLANCHARD, Trustee. Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16

NOTICE

By virtue of a deed of trust executed to me by J. J. Fleetwood and wife for certain purposes therein mentioned which said deed of trust bears date of February 24th, 1928, and is registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of Perquimans County in Book D 17, page 68, I shall, at the request of the holder of the notes secured thereby, on Monday, the 19th day of December, 1938, at 11:30 A. M., offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash at the Court House Door in Hertford, Perquimans County, part of the property conveyed in said deed of trust as follows:

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This November 16th, 1938. CHAS. WHEDEBEE, Trustee. Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16

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LADIES' COUNCIL MEETS
The Ladies' Council of Bethlehem Christian Church met Friday evening at the church with Mrs. Mary J. Wood, Mrs. W. N. White, Mrs. W. A. Russell and Mrs. Reuben Stallings as joint hostesses. The president, Mrs. E. Y. Berry, presided. The opening hymn, "Joy to the World," was followed with a prayer offered by Mrs. J. Ed Lane. The Scripture lesson was 16 verses from the second chapter of St. Luke and was read by Mrs. Dennis Godwin.

After the transaction of routine business, new officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, Mrs. Willie Lane, vice-president, Mrs. Joseph Proctor; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Dennis Godwin, and program committee chairman, Miss Rosa Lassiter.

A fruit cake was sold to the highest bidder and the proceeds were given to the Ladies' Council treasury.

The hostesses served apples, popcorn balls, grapes, and an assortment of candy.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Godwin, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Proctor and daughter, Annette, Mrs. V. L. Proctor and daughter, Mary; Mrs. Mamie Farmer; Mr. and Mrs. J. Ed Lane and two daughters, Edna

Ruth and Jo Anne; Mrs. Mary J. Wood and two daughters, Minnie Wilma and Mary Ruth; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Russell and children, Violet, Lucy Hope, Mary Ellen and Billie; Mr. and Mrs. W. N. White and three children; Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Stallings and son, William; Raymond Farmer; J. B. Perry; Frank Dillard; Mrs. Louis Eaves and two children, Alma Lee and Howard; Mrs. S. I. Cullipher; Mrs. E. Y. Berry and two sons, Edgar Young and Dan, and Miss Sallie Sue Skinner.

CENTER HILL

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Hobbs had as their dinner guests Sunday evening Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eason and Major Ward, all of Gatesville.

Miss Lucy Myers White called to see Mrs. J. S. Turner Monday afternoon.

Rev. Frank Cale and Mrs. W. F. Cale spent Tuesday in Windsor. They were accompanied home by Mr. Cale's aunt, Mrs. Asbell, who will visit them.

Mrs. Silas White, of Hobbville, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. J. P. Byrum.

Mrs. R. O. Furry, Mrs. Cameron



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