

1. The sin of covetousness

- a) How would you define covetousness?
- b) What inspired warnings against covetousness are found in the Scriptures? Exodus 20:17, Ephesians 5:5, Colossians 3:5, etc.
- c) Where did the sin of covetousness originate? Isaiah 14:12-14

2. An Old Testament example of covetousness

- a) What instructions did Joshua give to the children of Israel when they were about to conquer Jericho? Joshua 6:17-19
- b) Who disobeyed the clear instructions of Joshua? Joshua 7:1
- c) What explanation did Achan give for his disobedience? Joshua 7:20-21
- d) What were the consequences of this sin of covetousness for the children of Israel, and also for Achan and his family? Joshua 7:24-26
- e) What can we learn from Achan's failure?

3. New Testament examples of covetousness

- a) Judas
 - i) John 12:1-6
 - ii) Matthew 26:14-16 What motivated Judas to betray Jesus for personal gain?

- iii) What was the final result of his covetous behavior? Matthew 27:3-5
- b) Ananias and Sapphira
 - i) What motivated Ananias and Sapphira to sell a piece of land and make a donation to provide for the needs of fellow Christians? Acts 4:32-37
 - ii) Acts 5:1-2 What was the problem here? Isn't it acceptable to sell a piece of property and make a donation to the church?
 - iii) Acts 5:3-4 How was this covetousness exposed?
 - iv) What was the consequence of their covetousness? Acts 5:5-10

4. Finding freedom from covetousness

- a) What else might a person covet besides material possessions?
- b) How does the sin of covetousness continue to damage families and communities today?
- c) What is the antidote for covetousness? 1 Timothy 6:6-7
- d) What promises from the Scriptures assure us that we can find freedom from covetousness? 1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:10-13, etc.
- e) What story in the Bible or personal experience has motivated you to find freedom from the sin of covetousness?

