

PRAYER

Teach me, dear Father in heaven, to be content with what You provide. Help me to love my neighbor and respect what belongs to him. Amen.

Memory

1. "Do not covet your neighbor's house" (Exodus 20:17).
2. "Delight in the LORD, and He will give you your heart's desire" (Psalm 37:4).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons
Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten
Study #11 of 13: Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21)

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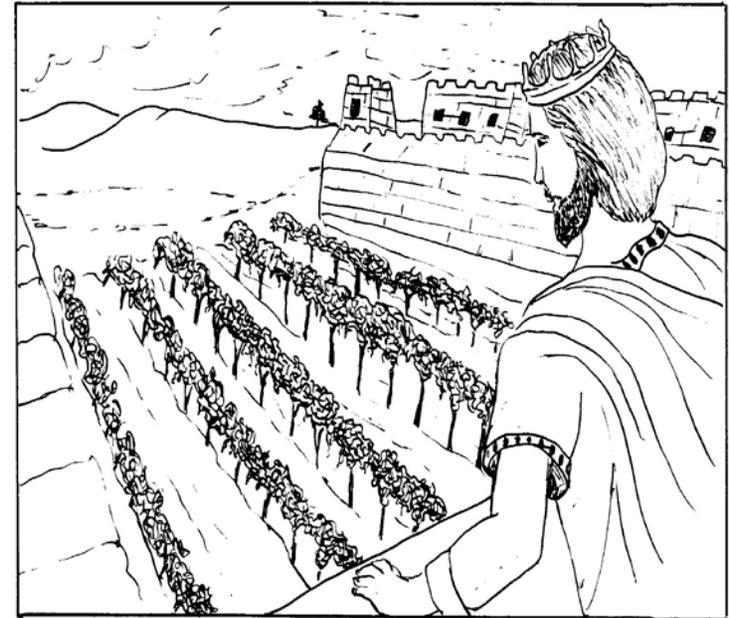


Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten

Study #11 of 13

Ninth Commandment *Naboth's Vineyard*



God says to you in the ninth commandment,
"Do not covet your neighbor's house"
(Exodus 20:17).

THIS MEANS you must not desire anything
that is not yours to have.

Bible Reading: 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27-29

Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

1. What did Ahab want that belonged to Naboth?

Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. This vineyard was very special to Naboth because Naboth inherited it from his fathers. Naboth did not want to sell the vineyard.

2. When did Ahab start to sin against Naboth?

Ahab did not sin when he offered to trade Naboth's vineyard for a better one, or to buy Naboth's vineyard at a fair price. Ahab started to sin when he "went home annoyed and angry" because Naboth refused to sell. Ahab was now sinning because he kept on wanting something that was not his to have. Ahab did not want a different vineyard. He wanted only Naboth's vineyard, even though the vineyard was not available for him to have.

When you want something that is not yours to have, God calls that sin "coveting." God forbids this sin when He says to you, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house."

3. What did Jezebel do to make things worse?

Jezebel did many things to make the situation worse. First, she made Ahab think he was more important than Naboth. She did this when she asked, "Don't you govern Israel?" With these words, Jezebel led Ahab to think that he could have anything he wanted. But that was a lie. Second, Jezebel deceived the people of Jezreel and made men tell lies about Naboth. Finally, Jezebel committed murder by having Naboth stoned to death.

4. God says to you in His Bible, "Everyone's own desire tempts him, draws him away, and tries to trap him. When desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin grows up, it gives birth to death" (James 1:14-15).

a. In what way are these words proven true in Ahab's life?

Although Jezebel killed Naboth, Ahab was guilty because he allowed Jezebel to do it. Ahab thought that Naboth's vineyard was more important than Naboth's life. Ahab's desire for Naboth's vineyard "gave birth," so to speak, to Ahab's murder of Naboth.

b. Do these words mean that ALL desires are sinful?

Not all desires are sinful. For example, if you desire to eat a meal or go to school, you are not sinning at all. However, some desires are sinful. For example, if you desire to harm someone or steal his meal away from him, that desire is a sin. Sinful desires may lead you into other sins too! For example, Ahab's coveting led to murder.

5. Since coveting is a sin we commit in our heart and mind, is God aware of this sin?

Yes! God says in His Bible that "His eyes examine mortal man" (Psalm 11:4). These Words mean that God knows absolutely everything about you. He not only sees all your actions and hears all your words, but He also knows every desire of your heart.

Praise be to God! Your Lord Jesus came and died on the cross for ALL your sins. Jesus not only forgives your sinful actions and your sinful words, but He also forgives your sinful desires. Because of Jesus' wonderful forgiveness of your sins, you can rejoice and say, "My heart trusts Him and so I am helped. I am delighted and praise Him in my song" (Psalm 28:7).