



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Fear, Love & Trust

Law/Gospel

Just as Ahab coveted a garden that was not his, I sin when I am dissatisfied with God’s provision and sinfully desire something that belongs to my neighbor or fail to help him keep what belongs to him. **In His love and mercy, my heavenly Father gives me everything I need, especially His Son, Jesus, who set aside what He deserved in order to be my Savior.**

Take-Home Point

God commands that I be content.

Bible Words

Be content with what you have.
Hebrews 13:5

From the Catechism

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

Ahab Covets Naboth’s Vineyard

1 Kings 21:1–16

Once Israel divided into two nations, a series of kings led each country. Some worshiped the one true God; others wickedly worshiped false gods. Few were more wicked than Israel’s King Ahab.

Ahab became obsessed with planting a vegetable garden near his palace in Jezreel. Naboth’s vineyard, right next door, provided a perfect location, so Ahab asked Naboth to trade or sell it. Naboth refused, since people inherited their land and passed it on to their heirs.

This outcome so upset Ahab that he lay in bed and refused to eat. His wicked, yes truly wicked, Queen Jezebel promised to take care of it for him. She executed a sinful, lying plan that ended with Naboth’s wrongful execution. The king then took the land in a legal loophole, the intended outcome of their coveting, theft, and murder.

Like Ahab, much of our coveting comes from listening to the sinful, distracting voices in our heads and in the world. We think we have a right to what we want, even if getting it requires disobeying God. We steal what we have not earned, take revenge or speak ill of those who hurt us, and seek satisfaction outside of godly relationships.

Thankfully, Jesus did not covet. Instead, God’s Son set aside the comforts of His heavenly home, in order to accept His Father’s plan to save sinners through His perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection. In Christ, “we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

Prayer

Dear Lord, satisfy us with the good gifts You give in Your Word and Sacraments: forgiveness of sin, rich grace, and abundant new life, now and forever. Amen.

cph.org/SundaySchool

Permission to copy for use with this curriculum. Scripture: ESV®.
Copyright © 2017 Concordia Publishing House. Catechism quotations:
© 1986, 1991 CPH.

