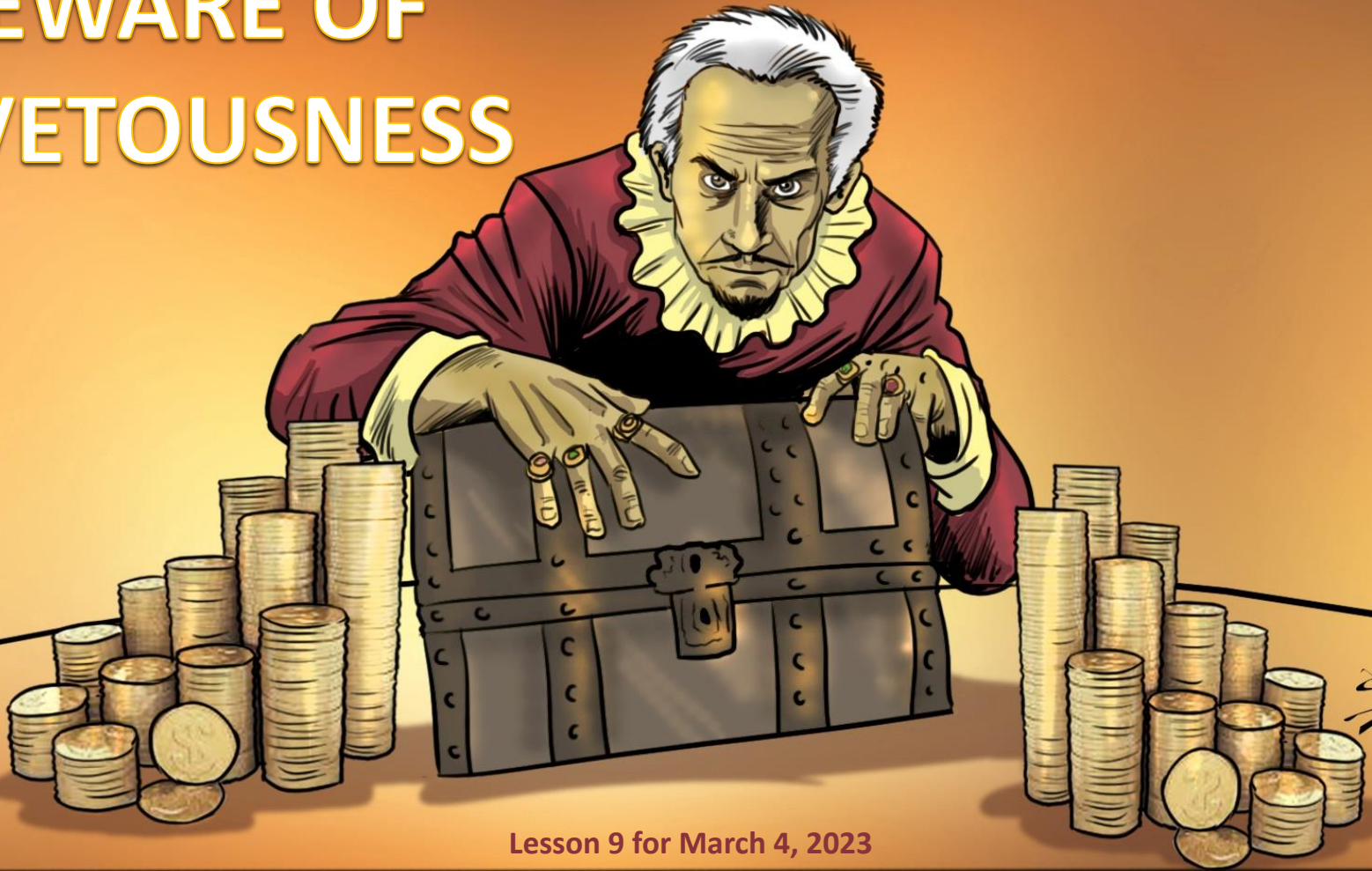


# BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS



Lesson 9 for March 4, 2023



“Take heed and beware of  
covetousness, for one's life does not  
consist in the abundance of the  
things he possesses”  
(Luke 12:15)



To covet is to want to have something very much.

The tenth commandment warns about coveting things that are not ours. Paul said that covetousness is idolatry, so greedy people are also transgressing the second commandment (Col. 3:5).

Let's study how covetousness originated and the stories of people who were captivated by it. We'll also learn how to overcome it.



➡ The origin of covetousness

➡ Examples of covetousness:

★ Achan

★ Judas

★ Ananias and Sapphira

➡ How to overcome covetousness

# THE ORIGIN OF COVETOUSNESS



**"For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'" (Isaiah 14:13-14)**



**God gave His creatures everything they would need to be happy. However, the desire of being exalted above God inexplicably grew in Lucifer's heart.**

**Lucifer coveted the worship that only the Creator can receive. He even coveted God's throne (Is. 14:12-14).**

**Later, he tricked Eve to commit the same sin, and to covet what God had prohibited: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gn. 3:6).**

**This is how covetousness became a part of our sinful nature.**



# EXAMPLES OF COVETOUSNESS

# ACHAN

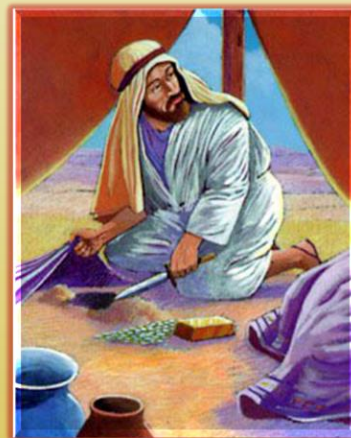
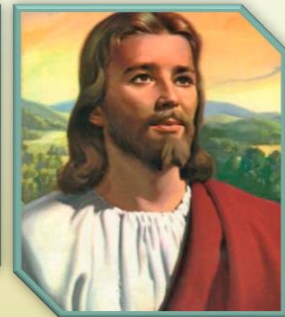
“When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them [...]” (Joshua 7:21)

The Hebrew word *châmad* or *chemdâh* (to covet) doesn't imply something bad. It can be translated as beautiful, desirable, delightful, good, beloved, pleasant, and covetable.

This word was used to introduce Daniel as “greatly beloved” (Dn. 9:23) or Jesus as the “Desire” (Hag. 2:7).

The problem is desiring something that is not ours, like Achan did.

Achan's covetousness was his own ruin, and it also affected his whole family. Thirty-six men died (Jos. 7:5, 10-11, 15, 24-26).





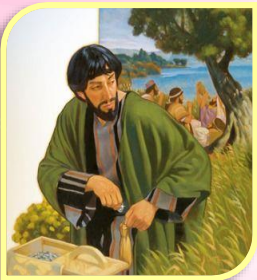


# JUDAS

"and said, 'What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?' And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver." (Matthew 26:15)



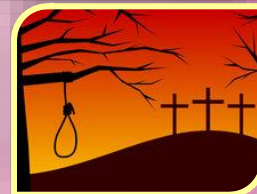
**Judas coveted something good: to be close to Jesus, to become like Him, to preach the good news of salvation...**



**However, he was never able to get rid of greed. His greed led him to steal, to betray, and to kill himself (Jn. 12:6; Mt. 26:15; 27:5).**



**His covetousness led him to transgress at least three other commandments: idolatry/greed [2<sup>nd</sup>], murdering [6<sup>th</sup>], and stealing [8<sup>th</sup>].**



**Judas was not meant for this sad fate. Like us, he could've accepted the power of Jesus that would've transformed his heart. His story would've been different.**



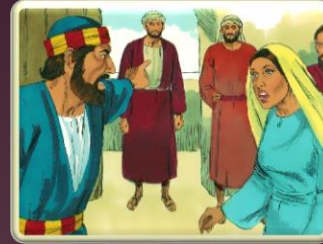
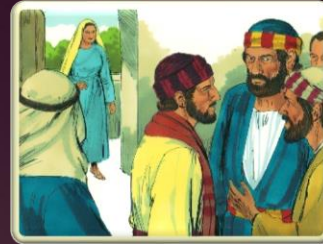
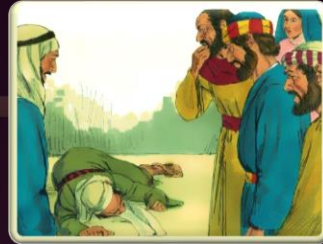
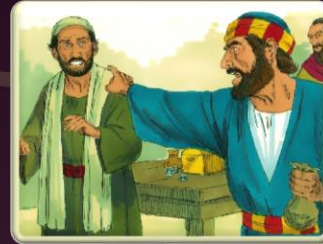
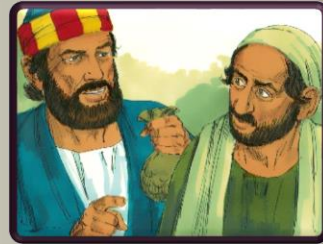
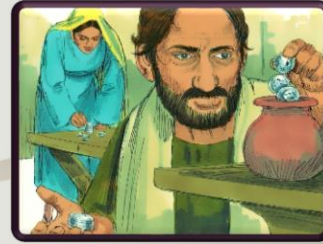
# ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

"With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet." (Acts 5:2 NIV)

Ananias and Sapphira were encouraged by the example of Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37), so they promised to sell a landed property and give God the whole amount.

That was a good thing, but everything changed when they received the money. They thought it was too much to give away, so they decided to keep part of it. They thought that nobody would know the actual amount, so they would still be respected like Barnabas was.


Sin clouds our reason. God would know the amount they had received. Nobody can steal from God and remain unpunished. Their covetousness was their ruin.




# HOW TO OVERCOME COVETOUSNESS

**"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." (1 Timothy 6:6-8)**


**What can we do if we ever feel tempted by sinful covetousness?**




**Remember that God is powerful enough to free us from temptation  
(1Co. 10:13)**



**Pray that God would change our thoughts and feelings, so we're no longer tempted by them  
(Lk. 11:4; 2P. 2:9)**



**Make the decision to trust God and to be content with everything He has given us  
(1Tim. 6:6-8; Pr. 30:7-9)**



**Remember the advice God has given in His Word:  
"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."  
(Ps. 119:11)**



**“If we would permit our minds to dwell more upon Christ and the heavenly world, we should find a powerful stimulus and support in fighting the battles of the Lord. Pride and love of the world will lose their power as we contemplate the glories of that better land so soon to be our home. Beside the loveliness of Christ, all earthly attractions will seem of little worth.”**

**E. G. W. (Counsels for the Church, cp. 6, p. 57)**