



# Ten.Com

Number 10:  
Exodus  
20: 17

***"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."***



## no envy



***To finish the list of commandments, we come to "do not envy". Instead of always looking at what others have, we are told to be content with our own possessions and circumstances.***

***Yet our world is full of things to make us 'want want want'. Advertising, for instance, often feeds this sin.***

- ***Is it always wrong to want something, is that what this commandment says?***

***Its always wrong to want something just because others have it.***

***God said of Himself "I am who I am". In other words He is completely content with Who He is. So should we be.***

***David wrote:*** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. (Ps 23:1)

***Paul wrote:*** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (1 Corinthians 13: 4)

***James wrote:*** For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. (James 3:16)

***This is often the hardest sin to avoid.***

***David, the friend of God in the OT, fell into the trap. See if you can count how many of the commandments David broke in the following story from 2 Samuel 11:***

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace.

From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

(She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. When David was told,

"Uriah did not go home," he asked him, "Haven't you just come from a distance?"

Why didn't you go home?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and

my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!" Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so that he will be struck down and die." So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died. Joab sent

David a full account of the battle. He instructed the messenger: "When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, the king's anger may flare up, and he may ask you, 'Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn't you know they would shoot arrows from the wall? Who killed Abimelech son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn't a woman throw an upper millstone on

him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?' If he asks you this, then say to him, 'Also, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'" The messenger said to David, "The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove the The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. The messenger said to David, "The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to

the entrance to the city gate. Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead." David told the messenger, "Say this to Joab: 'Don't let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another.

Press the attack against the city and destroy it.' Say this to encourage Joab." When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

***God forgave David, because he repented. But all that sin was caused because he started off coveting (envying) something/someone who wasn't his and that he shouldn't have .***

***James again:***

When tempted, no-one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (1:13 - 15)

***What are the desires of your heart? Do they lead you into sin?***

***To think about:***

***'if everyone breaks them, why do we need them?'***

