

The Snares of Satan Part 3: *"The Lusts of the Eyes"*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug. 20th

The Bible often speaks of ways in which we get "caught in the snare of the devil". 2 Tim. 2:26

The word "snare" (pagis) means a noose, trap, or stratagem. Satan's Snares are always:

Seductive (in that they're baited with something we "want"); **Subtle** (in that they're easily

"rationalized" see Jer. 17:9); and **Strong** (in that they lead us away from God, His

House, and His Protection, eventually "trapping us" under his influence.) 2 Tim. 2:19-26

These "snares" are usually baited with either *"the lusts of the flesh (Pleasure), the lusts of the eyes*

(Possessions) or the "pride of life". (Pride). Last time we examined how Satan uses "the pride of life"

to embitter us, frustrating God's Grace in us and producing a subtle rebellion which exposes us to his

influence. (Heb. 12:15; 1 Sam 15:23) Rebellion: (merî) comes mārâ: Bitter! **This morning we'll**

examine the "lust of the eyes" and how Satan uses the bait of "covetousness" to snare us.

Ex. 20:17 *"Thou shalt not covet"* Hāmād: desire, lust

1 Tim. 6:4-10 describes how Satan uses the "love of money" to drive us toward his purposes. It's

interesting that the Bible word "Content" (Arke'ō) literally means "to raise a barrier, to ward off!"

Satan can use our "discontentment" (lack of barriers) to distract us from God's plan and to lead us into

"destruction and perdition" (ruin and loss) 1 Tim. 6:9.

How does "covetousness" snare us.

1. The Temptation of the "Temporary" (Attraction of the Immediate.)

A. Satan is a master at using appealing to the "here and now".

1) Remember his temptation of Jesus in Mt. 4.

a) Satisfy your hunger. Mt. 4:3,4 (Flesh)

b) Immediate fame. Vs. 5-7 (Pride)

c) Kingdoms of the world. Vs 7-10 (Lust of the eyes)

2) Wanting the "Right Thing" at the Wrong Time will usually play into Satan's hand.

a) Money before Maturity.

b) Responsibility before Integrity.

c) Sex before Commitment (Marriage).

2. Satan uses the "temptation of the temporary" to distract us from the Power (and Priority) of the Permanent!

2 Cor 4:18 *"for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

A. Two "laws" illustrate this.

1) The Law of Physics: *The greater the mass, the greater the "gravitational pull!"*

a) The more "stuff" we accumulate, the greater it's "pull" on us!

2) The Law of Treasure (value) Mt. 6:20,21 *"lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is, (Thēsauros': deposits) there shall your heart be also"*

a) Our Interest (concern) is proportional to our investment!

B. Biblical examples:

1) Demas: 2 Tim. 4:10 *"Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world"*

1 Jn 2:16 *"The world passeth away, and the lusts thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever"*

2) Achan at Jericho. Joshua 6:18-19 *"Keep yourselves from the accursed thing, (hērem: net)*

lest ye make yourselves ...and ...Israel a curse... But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

The Results of Achan's covetousness include:

- a) Israel lost the battle of Ai (36 men died) 7:5
- b) Joshua prayed. 7:8 *"what shall I say, when Israel turns their backs before their enemies!"*
- c) God answers: 7:11,12 *"Israel hath sinned... stolen... cannot stand before their enemies."*
- d) Achan confessed 7:21 *"I have sinned and coveted..."* (Garment, Silver, Gold wedge)
- e) Achan lost his wealth, life, and family! 7:24,25

3) Rich Fool.

- a) In Luke 12 a man asked Jesus to intervene in a family inheritance dispute. Vs. 15 *"Beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."*
- b) He then tells about the Rich "Fool." Vs 16-20 and makes the application in Vs 21: *"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

CONCLUSION:

Just as bitterness is related to Rebellion, Covetousness is related to idolatry!

Col 3:5-6 *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, (all aspects of the lust of the flesh) and covetousness, which is idolatry:"* (literally the worship of things!)

- Covetousness aligns us with the *"god of this world"!*
We end up "investing" in the wrong kingdom!
- Covetousness alienates us from God! Col. 3:6 *"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"*

James 4:4 *"Know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God!"*

Application: The cure for covetousness.

1 Tim 6:11-12 *"But thou, O man of God,*

- 1) *"flee these things":* Distance yourself from the temptation of the temporary.
- 2) *"and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."*
Focus on eternal values. (Mt. 6:20,21)
- 3) *"Fight the good fight of faith"* Recognize you're in a battle! (Eph. 6:10-18)
- 4) **FAITH:** Invest in eternity! 1 Timothy 6:17-19
*"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, (agathos: beneficial, practical) that they be rich in good works (kalos: Valuable deeds), ready to distribute, (generous) willing to communicate; (from koinōnos': to partner with God and others)
Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come... eternal life."*

Hebrews 10:35-39

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; (ruin, loss) but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."