

I Didn't Think I Had a Coveting Problem

by Julie Luetke

I am a very content person. God has blessed me with everything I ever wanted (except maybe a million dollars). In my self-righteousness I honestly thought coveting wasn't a sin I needed to work on. Coveting was something other people did. You know the kind: people who steal things or try to con us out of our money. Children also covet, but not me.



I was reminded of a passage in James while in church today:

(James 1:14-15) *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.*

Do you have habits you'd like to break? I do. I'd like to never go back for seconds. I covet food. I'd like to do more visiting at the nursing home and with people who are lonely. I covet my personal time to quilt or read. I may not be a smoker but I sure enjoy my diet coke; and let's not even talk about the amount of chocolate I throw money at.

I have been telling myself for more than 30 years that going back for seconds, some time to quilt, and enjoying a diet coke are not wrong. And they are not wrong by themselves. We do all things to the glory of God. I have given some beautiful quilts away and a coke now and then doesn't hurt the body. Seconds at dinner when I am still hungry is not sinful. However, I have taken every one of these things too far. "Evil desire" means coveting and it most certainly has given birth to sin. I do not tell myself "NO" very often. The James passage says, "...and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death." Those are strong words when I think I just have a sweet tooth problem.

The bottom line is, we all covet and we do it every day. Take heart, my sisters, God knows of our sin and the death it causes. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." John 3:16-17 Comforting words from a merciful God.

Lord, thank you for sending Jesus, not to condemn but to save. Help me to recognize coveting in my life and give me strength to turn from it. Amen.



Season: Lent

Video: 14. Don't Worry, be Happy...in the Lord!

Devotions: 38. Prisoners of Sin

108. Disowned

132. Self-Control

189. SHOCKS THE CONSCIENCE

Prayer: 43. God, the little green-eyed monster is rearing his ugly...

Super Girl: 146. The recent events in the news have my brain spinning with my own hypocrisy...

Scripture References: Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:6; 2 Samuel 11:4; Job 15:35; Psalm 7:14;

Proverbs 11:19; Isaiah 33:11; Isaiah 59:4; Matthew 5:28; Romans 5:12

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