



Sermon Notes – November 18, 2018

[#57] **Anti-Coveting: Protecting the Inheritance of Others**

Deuteronomy 25:5–12

Children's Sermon: Selfishness Feels Like Breathing

Illustration: Have you ever had a you-go-first fight?

Jesus knows that something big needs to change in us:

Philippians 2:3 (NLT)

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.



This is what Jesus came to give us?

Our Prayer Life Reveals Our Self-Centered Heart:

John Onwuchekwa "How often do you find yourself unable to eat, sleep, or focus because you're so frustrated with how God's name is being disrespected? How often do you find yourself in anguish to the point of prayer over the fact that God's kingdom and purposes are disregarded? Does that make it into your prayer journal? Do you see the absence of God's honor as the main problem with the world? With your marriage? With your church? Jesus is teaching us to cry out to God for these things, not because he needs help doing it, but because we need help desiring it. Our agenda conflicts with God's agenda because our affections conflict with his. And our affections are what ultimately shape our agenda, especially in prayer." ⁱ

Wrestling with Hard Texts

Notes:

- Pray & Study
- Be Wary of Novel Interpretations
- Do not Lean Heavily on Difficult Texts
- Land on Something that is Clearly Biblical

Deut. 25:5-10 is Hard, 11-12 is Harder

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

Israel is being taught to protect and build up the house/inheritance of their brothers. **Anti-Coveting**



Deuteronomy 12:28

²⁸ Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, that it may go well with you **and with your children after you forever**, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the Lord your God.

Refusing to Help your Brother Produce an Heir (5-10)

⁵ “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband’s brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her.” ⁶ And **the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.** ⁷ And if the man does not wish to take his brother’s wife, then **his brother’s wife ... the elders** and say, ‘My husband’s brother *refuses to perpetuate his brother’s name in Israel*; he will not perform the duty of a husband’s brother to me.’ ⁸ **Then the elders of his city** shall call him and speak to him, and if he *persists*, saying, ‘I do not wish to take her,’ ⁹ then **his brother’s wife** shall go up to him in the presence of the elders and *pull his sandal off* his foot and *spit in his face*. And she shall answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who does not **build up his brother’s house.**’ ¹⁰ And the name of his house shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal pulled off.’

Failure to Protect a Brothers Procreative Potential (11-12)

¹¹ “When men fight with one another and the wife of the one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of him who is beating him and puts out her hand and *seizes him by the private parts*, ¹² then you shall cut off her hand. Your eye shall have no pity.

1. Sexual immorality or Risk to future generations?
2. The Ends do not Justify the Means
3. We have responsibilities towards Brothers who are Mistreating Us! (Grace)
4. Trust God for the well being of my husband/future and do not risk the future children of his assailant!

Gospel Power for Selfless Love

Apart from Jesus, our ways are upside down! (In a Fallen World: Selfishness Feels Like Breathing)

Two Related Errors:

1. Putting others first is neither good nor appealing! (Am I my brother’s keeper?)
2. I feel guilty all the time for being so selfish!

Gospel Powered, Biblical, “Right-Side-Up” Thinking

Philippians 2:1–5

¹ So *if there is any encouragement in Christ*, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² **complete my joy** by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but **in humility count others more significant than yourselves**.⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, **which is yours in Christ Jesus**...

God-confident, joyful, fearless pursuit of Christ-likeness

Two Protections Given to Keep Us in Faith & Repentance

1. God's Gracious Promises (Faith)
2. God's Gracious Warnings (Repentance)



Titus 3:5–7

⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ so that being **justified by his grace** we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**.

Hebrews 10:26–27

²⁶ For *if we go on sinning deliberately* after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Pursue Anti-Coveting: The joyful contentment of selfless, gracious service without fear.



Philippians 4:11–13

¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance... ¹³ ***I can do all things through him who strengthens me.***

Psalm 119:101–103

¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. ¹⁰² I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. ¹⁰³ *How sweet are your words to my taste*, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹ Onwuchekwa, John. Prayer (9marks: Building Healthy Churches) (Kindle Locations 574-579). Crossway. Kindle Edition.