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REFORMED BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Biblical Preaching & Reverent Worship  
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*Covetousness – Enemy of the Heart*

Lesson from King Ahab – 1 Kings 21

‘Study to show thyself approved unto God...’ – 2 Timothy 2:15  
The importance of reading and learning God’s word is a vital part of both growing and also experiencing the blessing of belonging to God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This truth is one of the purposes why we wish to offer you these sermon notes which are to be used while listening to the sermon.

For your added benefit, there is also included six daily bible readings that supplement the theme of each sermon. Take time to gather your loved ones to read and discuss the texts.

If you have any further questions relating to the sermon, sermon notes or would like to learn more about how to become a member of Christ Reformed Baptist Church, please do not hesitate to contact

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## **INTRODUCTION**

- A covetous heart is one which craves personal and earthly benefits over and above the Lord's interests and the needs of others.
- We may say we love Him, but do we love him enough to be completely fulfilled and satisfied by Him?

### **vv.1-3 AHAB REJECTED**

- Num 36:7 So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe: for every one of the children of Israel shall keep himself to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.
- Every believer has a valuable interest in the COG and we, like Naboth ought to uncompromisingly guard such a heritage - no matter how overwhelming the pressures may be.
- v.4 *'And he laid him down upon his bed, faced turned, not eating'*

### **#1 Covetousness - Takes Over the Heart.**

- Covetousness is like the river's floodwaters that have broken over her banks not knowing any rational direction or self-control.

### **#2 Covetousness - Weakens and Hardens the Heart**

v.6 *"...he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard."*

- Covetousness, no matter the proportion, is a wicked enemy of the heart because it has the damaging ability to weaken and hardens us against our neighbor

### **v.7 AN APPEAL TO PRIDE**

v.7 *"...Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel?"*

### **#3 Covetousness is Infectious!**

- The covetous sin goes on to infect the already wicked heart of his wife, which is predisposed to such envy and greed.

### **vv.8-15 COVETOUS PLANNING**

v.7 *"So she wrote letters..."*

### **#4 Covetousness is Addictive and Progressive**

v.9 • To proclaim a fast indicated that there was a serious sin amongst the people, so serious in fact it deserved death.

v.9 • *"...set Naboth on high..."* meaning among the elders as one under suspicion, awaiting a trial.

v.10 “...sons of Belial...” known as the most vile among them, men who would sell their own mothers for only a few pieces of silver.

v.14 Notice who they sent confirmation to: Jezebel not Ahab.

v.15 “...he refused to give thee for money...” still blinded, still hardened.  
~ *It is here that what is done by the covetous hearts of men appears to be unseen by eye of God as Ahab goes on in the next verse to rise up and take possession of Naboth’s vineyard.*

### **vv.16-19 POSSESSION and the PROPHET**

• Where is God? Where is God?

v.17 “*And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite..*”

v.19 “*..Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?*” Not questioning the omniscience (knowledge of God), rather meaning did you really think that you would get away with such wickedness!

v.19 The dogs shall lick thy blood. Fulfilled in a battle that took place (1Kings 22:38).

~ *The irony of where a covetous heart will lead a person is plainly revealed for us in v.20 in the confrontation between the King and the Prophet, because it is at this very moment which Ahab thought his greed was being brought to a completion was the very moment of God’s Judgement upon his Soul!*

### **v.20 SELLING YOURSELF TO EVIL**

• Ahab’s covetousness had in effect lead him to sell his soul to the devil. Sold his soul for present benefits. Sold his soul for temporary pleasure. Sold his soul in the sight of the LORD for false security and self-indulgence!

• 2 Tim. 3:1-2 that “In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous...”

### **• #5 Covetousness is a Root of Apostasy**

• Covetousness demands a compromise of one’s character, it requires a divided heart – and for anyone who has been ensnared by this silent, invisible enemy be crystal clear of this one truth – covetousness will take you farther and deeper than you ever anticipated on going and end up costing you your soul!

**• vv.21-24 JUDGEMENT PROPHESED**

v.21 “...take away thy posterity...” this occurs in (2Kings10:1-11)

v.22 “...provoked me to anger...” of course not implying that God has carnal emotions as ourselves.

v.23 “Jezebel...the dogs shall eat by the wall of Jezreel”

this occurs in (2 Kings 9:30-37)

**Individual/Family Worship Bible Readings**

*Monday* > Isaiah 57:15-20 (Promises of Comfort)

*Tuesday* > Jeremiah 6:10-13 (Universal Covetousness)

*Wednesday* > Luke 18:18-25 (The Love of Money)

*Thursday* > Acts 5:1-11 (Lying to God)

*Friday* > 1 Cor.6:9-11 (Saved from Covetousness)

*Saturday* > Eph.5:1-5 (Idolatry of Greed)

**Thought of the week :**

Ever since our father Adam grew dissatisfied with the delights of paradise, we, as his posterity are infected with the same unhappy disease of discontentment, until that is, the grace of God renews our natures, limits our desires, and shows us a more durable and substantial good than the pleasures of this life (acquisitions of honor or wealth) the favor and enjoyment of his great and blessed Self.

~ Richard Steele (1629-1692) a nonconformist preacher.

These resources are never intended to replace the involvement or instruction of your local church where you are a member, only to supplement your continued growth in the truth of God’s Word.

If you do not have a home church we encourage you to search out a bible preaching, reverent worshipping assembly of local believers.