

Big Ten: The Danger of Desire

Exodus 20:12-17

1. Share a time when you wanted something really strongly. How did that desire motivate you to act? Did you get what you wanted? If not, how did you handle your disappointment?
2. Pastor Mark argues that we live in a society that teaches us education and financial resources are what we need to live a successful and happy life. Mark suggests that while education and financial resources are helpful, we also need strong character. Otherwise, we will not handle freedom well. Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?
3. Share some positive desires that have led to good things in your life.
4. Pastor Mark points out that, while some desires can be good, other desires can lead to disaster if they are not disciplined by good character and wise practices. Talk about good desires that can go bad if they are not disciplined wisely.
5. Physical intimacy is one of God's good gifts. It serves a dual purpose of creating a strong emotional bond between husband and wife, and in many cases lead to procreation (children). With this in mind, why is adultery a harmful practice?
6. Pastor Mark argues that we live in a culture that almost romanticizes and legitimizes adultery, making it seem exciting and erotic. Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?
7. How does our choice of entertainment (movies, television shows, books, music) impact our desires?
8. Pastor Mark also suggests that some people fail to keep wise and proper boundaries in their relationships. How does this impact the temptation to engage in sexual sin?
9. Although adultery is a sin, it is not an unforgiveable sin. But forgiveness of the sin does not guarantee that a marriage will be restored or saved. Do you agree or disagree?
10. Pastor Mark explains that a strong desire for something can lead to coveting. This is the sin identified in the Tenth Commandment. Coveting is a strong desire for something you don't have, where you convince yourself that you really must have it in order to be satisfied and happy. Can you recall ever coveting something?

11. In what ways does our modern materialistic culture encourage coveting?
12. How do you balance the ability to enjoy good things in life, without allowing yourself to become covetous of more things?
13. Pastor Mark tells the story of how he ended up with a pellet grill. Do you have a similar story about something you simply had to buy because you liked it so much you convinced yourself that you really needed it? Share that story.
14. How does gratitude and generosity keep us from violating the tenth commandment?
15. How does Commandment number 4 (honoring the Sabbath) help us obey the Tenth Commandment (Thou shalt not covet)?