

What would you pay?

Luke 12:13-21

Pastor Johanan Justin

Pursuing passion always comes with a price. While the most prominent Christians throughout history accomplished extraordinary things for God, they also paid a huge price in passionately pursuing God. As Christians, while we are drawn to such passion, we are also held back by the cost we see in pursuing. Covetousness has taken the place of the rightful zeal for God and His kingdom.

Covetousness & the Price of Passion

1. The Demands of Covetousness

A man rudely interrupts Jesus' teaching, demanding his entitled inheritance. Jesus responds by making a stand about who He is and what He came to do. Jesus is Saviour and King and has come to save and rule. The demands of the man's covetous heart distorted the situation, his self-importance, and Jesus' identity. *The demands of covetousness distort everything!* When we give in to the demands of the substitute passion of covetousness, there is a price we pay: our sight and clarity of ourselves, our situations, and God. The more we allow covetousness to rule our hearts, the more blind we become. Give your heart to Jesus and let your passion belong to Him. He makes the blind see!

2. The Irrationality of Covetousness

Jesus identifies covetousness as the root problem in the man's demands (v. 15a). Covetousness is when we lust after things that are not ours (Ex. 20:17). It is a problem at the heart level that affects our affections and desires. Covetousness is a sin of passion. Jesus tells us that we should have nothing to do with covetousness because it is not worth it and not in our best interests (v. 15). Covetousness is irrational. *Covetousness*

is a mad passion that must be cut off – not curbed! When we give in to the irrationality of the substitute passion of covetousness, there is a price we pay: ourselves. Give your heart to Jesus and let your passion belong to Him. He makes the poor rich!

3. The Heart-Talk of Covetousness

All that we have are not from our own efforts but are given by God (v. 16). The rich man worried he would be able to capture everything (v. 17). The rich man's heart-talk reveals his obsession with himself (vv. 18-19). His goal was to have enough so that he can relax and enjoy life. God responds to the rich man by calling him a fool. Jesus condemns the covetous heart that wants more, covetous passion that turns us into fools, and covetous self-absorption that believes what we have is really ours (v. 20). *Covetousness comforts the heart with the assurance of all things; covetousness betrays the heart with an end that leaves nothing.* The cost of giving in the covetous passion is everything. Give your heart to Jesus and let your passion belong to Him. When we have Jesus, we have all things!

4. The Deception of Covetousness

Jesus exposes the covetous heart; it lives for himself and not towards God (v21). Covetousness deceives us into focusing on how much we are giving up rather than how much we stand to gain. Covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5), the worship of ourselves (v21). *Covetousness is an empty, hollow, lazy imitation; the Kingdom of God awaits the truly passionate!* We stand to gain everything if we were to put to death our covetous hearts (Rev. 3:21). Jesus is calling us to Himself; this is how we can conquer our covetous hearts (Isa. 55:1-2). Don't just

forsake your idolatrous desires, but go to Jesus and find satisfaction in Him! Give your heart to Jesus and let your passion belong to Him. Jesus is the One who makes all things new!