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Acquisition of “Things” is Not the Right Answer

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Many wars in our world have begun through the sin of coveting.

Consider the tiny land of Israel (about the size of New Jersey). When the famous writer Mark Twain was alive, he visited Israel and reported that he was not impressed with its barren land.



But when Israel became a nation in 1948, its people made great sacrifices to develop their new homeland. One plan was to develop Kibbutzim where many of the population lived in different communities. Their success took three decades of hard labor, and children being cared for by the community, while parents went out to work in the farmlands.

Now, 60 years later, the land has blossomed and as the scripture says, it is a “land of milk and honey.” Israel’s produce shipped abroad is some of the best.

When I was there in 2004, most everyone in my tour group planted a tree in the forest. This constant planting helps the land and environment greatly. Yet, constant bombing through covetous hearts is destroying parts of Israel.

Every successful nation has to protect what is theirs, because someone will want what they have and may try to take it by force. This is true for America and for all successful countries.

It would be so nice not to need the great sacrifice and the

expense of our military forces for protection, but it won’t easily happen on a fallen planet.

Until our hearts are changed, we will continue to covet what another has. Some wise people have allowed God to touch their hearts to heal them from greed, but the percentage is not enough for a safe world.

In this column, I’m sharing on the Commandment No 10: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant ... or anything else your neighbor owns” – (Exodus 20:17, The Life Recovery Bible). This gets right down to our own personal property. Our neighborhoods. Our family.

A covetous person is never happy or satisfied for long. He or she always wants what others have: their home, their car, their boat. They are constantly overspending, then have to borrow money in order to have what the Jones’s have.

This attitude and lifestyle are part of the explanation for our recent economic failures in America.

You and I may not be able to change the whole world but we can change ourselves, with help from our higher power – who is God.

“How?” you may ask. Try praying and ask your heavenly Father to change your craving for “things.” Have fellowship with Believing people who are givers and not takers. Hang out with non-covetous people. Look up the words “covet, covetousness” in the concordance of your Bible, or “Google” the words online.

Look up Jesus’ words in Luke 12:15-21, which begins: “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”

Immerse yourself with healthy thinking. You will then have a much happier time this Christmas-tide. Be free! Covet only God’s spiritual gifts.

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Hebrew Lesson: Let’s learn the tenth Hebrew letter: “*yod*.” It is the smallest of the Hebrew letters. Draw an English comma, only increase it about five times. This letter has no English equivalent.

The “*yod*” is close to the word for hand in Hebrew, or “*yad*.” Your memory prompter is to remind you of the connection of the “hand,” the Hebrew letter “*yod*,” and “You shall not covet” Commandment No. 10.

If you’ve collected the ten Hebrew lessons during the last ten Beacon columns, get them out and practice saying them. Dave, one of my readers, was reciting his letters to me recently at the Driftwood Players Theater where “Fiddler on the Roof” was playing. So practice!

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