

Catechesis Minute: 9th Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

Have you ever wanted anything with all your heart, like you felt like you couldn't live without it? Have you ever asked for something and when your mom or dad said, "No", you kept on asking for it? Today, I want to tell you another story from the Old Testament. It's the story of two men, Naboth and King Ahab. Naboth had a field next door to the king's palace. King Ahab wanted the field for himself, so he asked Naboth for it. He offered to trade another field for it or pay whatever Naboth thought was a good price. Naboth wouldn't sell it because it had been in his family for many years. So, Ahab went home and pouted. He wouldn't eat or talk to anyone.

Queen Jezebel asked Ahab what was wrong, and he told her about the field. She said, "If you want that field so bad, I'll get it for you." She wrote a letter to the men of Naboth's village, telling them to have a feast and seat Naboth at the head of the table. Then, they were to have two men who were no good accuse him of cursing God and the king. As punishment for that, they were to take him out and stone him.

The men did just what the queen had said to do. They had a feast with Naboth at the head of the table and had two bad men falsely accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then, they took Naboth out and stoned him to death. When he was dead, they sent word to the queen who told Ahab. He then took the field for himself.

How many Commandments were broken?

1. Ahab wanted the field and let Jezebel get it any way she could—9th Commandment.
2. Two men accused Naboth falsely—8th Commandment.
3. They killed Naboth unjustly—5th Commandment.
4. As king, Ahab took the field, knowing how Naboth died—7th Commandment.

All these Commandments were broken because Ahab wanted that field so badly. When we want something so badly that we're willing to do anything to get it, we break the 9th Commandment and that leads to breaking others.

Prayer: Lord, help us to not want anything so badly, we're willing to do anything to get it. Help us to be thankful for what You have given us.