

Catechesis Minute: 10th Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Absalom Steals the Hearts of the People (2 Samuel 15:1—6)

Last week, we talked about coveting, how it's wanting something so bad you can taste it, or you feel like you can't live without it. Today's Catechesis Minute is about coveting, too. But it's different. Last week, we talked about coveting things. This Commandment talks about coveting people. We all want people to like us, and there's nothing wrong with that. But we can go too far. Let me explain with an example from the Bible. Today, I want to tell you about Absalom and David.

Absalom was one of King David's sons. Absalom was very handsome, and people liked him. But that wasn't enough for him. He would get up early every day and stand by the gate. When people would come with a problem for the king to hear, Absalom would ask them what their problem was and tell them they had a good claim. It was too bad the king couldn't hear them. That was a lie. Then, he would say, *"Oh, that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice"* (2 Samuel 15:4).

In this way, the Bible tells us that *Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel* (v. 6). After doing this for four years, Absalom won enough people over that he was able to lead a rebellion against his father, and David had to leave Jerusalem until his army could get control again.

We have a big word that describes what Absalom did, how he stole the people's hearts. It's *manipulation*. That means to trick or convince people to do something they really don't want to do. That's not treating people with respect.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for all the people who You have put in our lives. Help us to love them and respect them. May we never treat people badly or try to make them do things our way. In Jesus' name, Amen.