

# Catechesis Minute

## The 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.

We've all seen it or heard it: A small child sees an ad for a certain toy on TV and exclaims, "I want that!" You tell them that's not going to happen, and they reply, "But, I want it!" You explain it's out of your price range, and they say, "But I want it!" You tell them you'll get them something else instead, and it's, "But I want that one!" Nothing else matters to the child, except the fact that they want that toy. But that becomes a pattern and as the child grows, so do the toys and the desires. As adults, we want something, like a new car. Nothing wrong with that. Then we think, "I'd like to replace it with a new Challenger." Nothing wrong with that if I can afford it. Then, I begin to dwell on it. The more I think about it, the older my car looks and the sweeter that Challenger looks. Now, I'm heading for trouble. I begin to plan ways to get my hands on one, it doesn't matter if it's ethical or not, I consider it. Now, I'm in trouble—that's coveting.

The old saying goes: "You can't keep a bird from landing on your head, but you don't have to let him build a nest there." The key is to be content with what God has given us. But how can we do that? In **Acts 20**, Paul is speaking to the Ephesian elders and says this: (Read **Acts 20:32-35**). The best way to break a bad habit is by substituting a good one. To learn to be content with what we have, we practice a habit of giving, and we'll find that what God has given us is plenty.