

**To shake off  
the temptation of covetousness**

**[Short Word Meditation (9)]**

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## 40 years ...

God delivered the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt for 430 years (Exod. 12:40-41).

But there were unfaithful to God so they became wandering people in the wilderness for 40 years (Num. 14:33). During those 40 years, God led the Israelites in the wilderness and performed wonders and signs (Deut. 29:5; Acts 7:36). And God fed them with manna for 40 years (Exod. 16:35).

The reason why God led them for 40 years in the wilderness was to humble them and to test them to know what was in their hearts, whether they would keep His commandments or not (Deut. 8:2).

God blessed them in all that they had done during those 40 years and He was with them so that they didn't lack a thing (Deut. 2:7).

Their clothing didn't wear out on them, nor did their feet swell and they weren't in want (v.7; 8:4; 29:5; Neh. 9:21). But they didn't present to God with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for 40 years (Amos 5:25). And they didn't listen to the voice of the Lord (Josh. 5:6).

Rather, they tried God by testing Him (Heb. 3:9).

But during that 40 years God put up with them (Acts 13:18).

For 40 years, God loathed them because their hearts went astray and hadn't known His ways (Ps. 95:10). Eventually, God was angry with the Israelites (Num. 32:13; Heb. 3:17).

As a result, they couldn't see the land of Canaan, flowing with milk and honey (Josh. 5:6) and their corpses lied in the wilderness (Num. 14:33).

But the Israelites' descendants relied on Egypt, where their ancestors had been slaves for 430 years.

So God judged Egypt, which the Israelites were depended on (Cf. Ezek. 29-31).

God made the land of Egypt a desolate land so no one had ever lived in the land for 40 years (29:11).

God made the land of Egypt a desolation in the midst of desolated lands so that they were laid waste and was desolate 40 years (v. 12). God made Egypt the lowest kingdom (vv. 14-15).

The reason was to show Egypt God's justice.

God made the country extremely weak because Egypt was proud (vv. 3, 9; 30:6, 18; 31:10, 14).

Also, the reason was that God wanted to show God's grace and mercy to the Israelites and to judge Egypt, so that it would never again be the confidence of the house of Israel (29:16).

And by doing so, God didn't want the Israelites to bring to mind the iniquity of their having turned to Egypt (v. 16).

God has endured my sinful acts for the past 40 years.

Like David who committed adultery with Bathsheba and thus had given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme (2 Sam. 12:14), I had committed the sin of adultery to God for the past 40 years.

I had committed the great sin to holy God by being drawn to the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh (1 Jn. 2:16).

There was an idol of covetousness in my heart (Col. 3:5).

Although God had blessed me with so much grace in those 40 years,

I committed countless sins of ungrateful against Father God by forgetting His grace.

Then, in the wrath of God, I lost my first baby Charis about 20 years ago.

To me it was like God took a child born between David and Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:14-18).

Even at that time, God enabled me to praise the Lord's savior love for me

Because His lovingkindness was better than Charis' 55 days of life in this earth  
and my lips shall praise Him (Ps. 63:3).

God allowed me to experience the breadth and length and height and depth of His saving love (Eph. 3:18)  
in my life's greatest crisis.

But after that, I was like a dog that returned to its vomit (Prov. 26:11) because I was a fool who repeated  
the foolish adultery. No, I lived a life less than a dog. I realized it by looking at my dog.

I never saw my dog eating its own dung. But I repeatedly committed the same sin again and again.

I hated myself so much that I had experienced countless disappointments  
and discouragement over and over again.

This was because sin had taken the opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting  
(Rom. 7:8) so that I did what I didn't want to do, the very thing I hated (v. 15).

The good that I wanted, I didn't do, but I practiced the very evil that I didn't want (v. 19).

My heart wanted to obey God's law but my body obeyed the law of sin innumerable times (vv. 22-23).

But finally after 40 years, God delivered me. It is totally God's grace.

From the deep pit where I couldn't deliver myself,

my Savior God showed His saving love to such sinner like me.

God stopped me from relying on covetousness anymore

by making my heart's covetousness extremely weak (Ezek. 29:14-16).

The reason was to keep me from remembering my sins (v. 16).

He did so because even though God already forgave me and didn't even remember my sins anymore (Heb.  
8:12; 10:17) I was still remembering them and was miserable due to my guilt.

But God freed me from my guilt by delivering me out of the pit of guilt so that my sins wouldn't be  
remembered any longer (Ezek. 29:16). That is 40 years later. Ah~ Thank You, than You God.

## **300 and 30?**

While a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume or pure nard that was worth more than 300 denarii broke the vial and poured it over Jesus' head (Mk. 14:3, 5, 8), Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (Jn. 12:4, 5), who rebuked the woman "For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii (Mk. 14:5), sold Jesus to the chief priests (vv. 10, 11) at the price 30 pieces of silver (Mt. 27:3).

## **No discrimination, but discernment**

We shouldn't discriminate (Rom. 10:12; Col.3:11). But we should discern.

We should make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean (Lev. 10:10).

And with this discernment, we must live a life of separation with this world (Rom. 12:2).

## **A grievous evil**

It is a grievous evil that we toil for the wind because we don't gain anything. (Eccle. 5:16)

**Let us be those who humble ourselves  
rather than those who want to be the greatest..**

It is better to humble ourselves in this world so that we can be great in the kingdom of heaven than trying to be the greatest in this world. (Mt 18:1, 4)

**For a big church pastor ...**

I think for a big church (1 Kgs. 3:8) pastor, he needs great grace (v. 6) and a wise and discerning heart (v. 12) to be able to discern between good and evil (vv. 9, 10).

**A foolish man who does evil to greater evil**

A foolish man loves a woman whom he shouldn't have loved and does evil by violating her and laying with her forcibly. But after thi evil, he does greater evil by hating her with a very great hatred and by sending her away. (2 Sam. 13:15-16)

## **God who makes us to go through a great difficult to a greater difficult?**

I'm not sure why the Lord is making us go through great difficulty (Josh. 10).

I have no idea why God allows much greater difficult to us  
after we have gone through the great difficulty (ch. 11).

At that time, God says to us "Do not fear" (10:8, 11:6).

At that time, God promises to us that He will deliver us not only from the great difficult  
but also even the greater difficult (10:8, 11:6).

When we receive His promise, we must boldly and courageously obey the Lord by faith (10:9, 11:9).

When we obey Him by faith, the Lord will make us victorious! (10:10-20, 11:8, 11, 14)

## **Great salvation in great crisis**

God commanded Jonah to arise and go to Nineveh "the great city" and cry against it (Jon. 1:2).

But Jonah disobeyed. Therefore, God threw "a great wind" on the sea  
and there was "a great storm" on the sea (v. 4).

It was a great crisis that the ship that Jonah went aboard was about to break up (v. 4).

But God prepared "a great fish" for Jonah (v. 17).

Although Jonah disobeyed God's command (vv. 1, 3),

the great fish obeyed God's command and vomited Jonah up onto the dry land (2:10).

Although God allowed disobedient Jonah, who was worse the obedient great fish,  
to go through the great crisis,

God also delivered him from that great crisis by preparing the great fish to swallow him.

Like this, even though God gives us, who are disobedient to His command,  
great crisis and adversity, He also gives us great salvation.

## God who does great things in great sin?

In the days of Samuel, all the elders of the Israel, asked Samuel for a king for the king to judge them like all the nations (1 Sam. 8:5). God said this was rejecting not Samuel but God from being king over them (v. 7). This was the Israelites' great wickedness in the sight of the Lord (12:17).

The question is why did the Israelites ask for the king?

Of course one of the reasons was because Samuel's two sons (Joel and Abijah) didn't walk in their father Samuel's ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice (8:1-3) [even though Samuel had walked before the Israelites from his youth even to when he was old and gray and didn't receive any bribes (12:2-3)], but another reason was because they wanted their king to go out before them and to fight their battles (8:20) when they saw that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon came against them (12:12).

But what I don't understand is that God raised the king they had asked for among them (8:22; 12:13) Even though their asking of the king was great wickedness in His sight (12:17).

Why did God listen to their great sinful prayers and did the great things to them? (v. 24)

Maybe God wanted the Israelites to learn the difference between serving God and serving the kingdoms of the countries (2 Chron. 12:17).

Maybe God made them know the greatness of the sins they had committed in the sight of God (1 Sam. 12:17)

So that we may know that all the kings from king Saul to all the Israel's kings who had committed sins against God and thus suffered by the Gentiles kings who couldn't save us but only the King of kings Jesus Christ who is the King of the Kingdom of God who came to this world in order to save us, the true Israel who were chosen by God in love, and to make us His people in order to reign over us forever.

## **Is it a valid excuse?**

These were Moses' excuses to God's calling (Exod. 3:9-10):

"... for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue" (4:10);

"... for I am unskilled in speech" (6:12);

"... I am unskilled in speech ..." (v. 30)

However, this is what the Bible Acts 7:21-22 says about Moses:

“And after he had been set outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and nurtured him as her own son.

"Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds.”

This was God's promises to Moses:

“Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say.” (Exod. 4:12)

## **The fallen ones**

Those who again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame are

The fallen ones who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift

and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God

and the powers of the age to come and then have fallen away.

It is impossible to renew them again to repentance. (Heb. 6:4-6)

## **Covetousness and idolatry**

Covetousness and idolatry are related (Micah.1:7, 2:2; cf. Col. 3:5).

The fact that the leaders of the church and of the world are greedy means

that they love material, honor, or women more than God and are guilty of idolatry.



## **Covetousness**

Covetousness makes us to go far enough in our thoughts and consider our duties as small (even though they aren't small at all) and consider other people's duties as big and thus covet their duties. (Num. 16:3, 9)

## **Covetousness**

Covetousness leads to adultery, murder, and theft, giving occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme. (2 Sam. 12:14)

### **Covetousness steals another's spouse.**

Covetousness makes us to covet our neighbor's wife by not being satisfied with our spouse of our youth (Prov. 5:18, 19).

This is what the Bible says: "and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you."

(1 Thess. 4:6)

### **To resist the temptation of covetousness ...**

In order to resist the temptation of covetousness, we must always remember the Jesus' word "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and live according to that word. (Acts 20:33-35)

## **Because of the sin of covetousness**

We are making God angry because of the sin of covetousness.

Therefore, God is hiding His face, is angry and disciplining us with His rod of love.

But we are still going on turning away (Isa. 57:17).

Now we aren't fearing God. The reason is because God has been silent even for a long time (v. 11).

## **Greed**

This is what the Bible James 1:15 says, "Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." Lust eventually leads to death.

Nevertheless, it seems that human lust is endless. Human greed cannot be satisfied.

Last week, I went to a Christian bookstore for church work and saw a book called 'Heedae's Hope' (author: Heedae Lee) and bought it because it was the book about cancer.

Since the author himself was a cancer specialist and suffered from cancer and was healed by God's grace, I wanted to buy it and read it.

As I read the writings of the author who experienced the 5th stage of life prepared by God in the 4th stage of cancer, I became interested in the author's book that was about cancer cells.

According to the author, cancer cells are mutations in the genes of cells that repeat growth and death and never die but grow constantly.

The reason why cancer cells are scary is because they take up the nutrients of other cells in order to grow constantly.

In other words, it is said that cancer cells grow constantly by migrating high-calorie nutrients while constantly moving around. In a word, according to the author, the essence of cancer cells is greed.

We must get rid of our greed. We must constantly put down our greed that wriggles in us endlessly in front of the cross moment by moment as we live in this world that fuels our greed.

Like our Jesus, we must constantly empty our hearts. We must put it down again and again.

And we must have the heart of Jesus.

We must learn the secret of contentment with only Jesus.

## **Greedy desires**

Greedy desires cannot be satisfied (Num. 11:4, 20). Greedy desires are digging its own grave (v. 34).

### **Pastors and church members who are greedy and lying ...?**

All the church members are greedy, and all the pastors are lying.

And we aren't taking the wounds of God's children seriously.

Although there is no peace due to their sins, they say "Peace, peace."

And when they do something abominable in the sight of God,

Not only they are not even ashamed at all but also they don't even know how to blush. (Jere. 6:13-15)

### **Don't mix with those who are greedy!**

If we mix with those who are greedy, then we will be greedy as well. (Num. 11:4, 34)

## **The prodigal son**

The prodigal son wants the father's wealth, but not the father's will. (Lk. 15:11-32)

### **"surely"?**

Isn't the Satan's word right that "he will surely curse You to Your face"

If we curse God when all our possessions are gone? (Job 1:11)

## Beatitude (1)

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 5:3)**

The poor in spirit Christian ...

1. Knows that he is a sinner (Rom. 3:23).  
He knows that he is the worst sinner (1 Tim. 1:15).
2. Knows that nothing good dwells in him (Rom. 7:18).  
He knows that he cannot do good works by himself (v. 19).  
He acknowledges that the indwelling Spirit is doing good works.
3. Knows that he cannot be saved by his own good works (Eph. 2:9).  
He acknowledges that he was saved only by the death of Jesus on the cross (Rom. 10:9; 1 Thess. 5:9).  
He believes that he was saved only by God's grace (Lk. 8:50; Eph. 2:8; 2 Tim. 1:9).
4. Relies completely on God (Deut. 30:20; Ps. 56:4, 10, 11; 2 Cor. 1:19).  
He doesn't lean on his own understanding but trust in the Lord (Prov. 3:5-6).  
He prays always (Ps. 62:8; Isa. 26:13).
5. Is humble (Micah 6:8; Mt. 11:29; Phil. 2:3; Jam. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:6).  
He doesn't boast himself and doesn't seek his own glory (Ps. 115:1).  
He boasts only the Lord and seeks His glory (1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 10:17).

## Beatitude (2)

**"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Mt. 5:4).**

The mourning Christian ...

1. Weeps and mourns for his own sins (Joel 2:12).

He confesses and repents his sins through the full work of the Holy Spirit when his sins are exposed by God's holy presence in the midst of his one-on-one intimate fellowship with God (Mt. 12:41; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10).

2. Mourns for the sins of his family (Job 1:5) and of his church (Rev. 2:5, 22; 3:3).

He confesses and repents the sins of his family and church that don't have God as their Lord, reject the Lord's rule, are disobedient to the Lord's authoritative words and cannot experience the Lord's presence.

3. Mourns for the sins of this country and this nation (Ezek. 18:30; Mt. 12:41; Acts 13:24).

He confesses and repents the sins of this country and this nation, not fearing God and rebel against Him.

He receives the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

## Beatitude (3)

**"Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth" (Mt. 5:5).**

The gentle Christian ...

1. Knows himself by knowing God (Hos. 6:3).
2. Doesn't go too far in his thoughts (Num. 16:3, 7; Rom. 12:6; 2 Cor. 10:13).
3. Is humble (Isa. 57:15; Eph. 4:2).  
He considers others better than himself (Phil. 2:3).
4. Is criticized but is not defensive.
5. Acknowledges his mistakes and weaknesses and wrongs quickly.
6. Sees his wrongs and boldly confronts them.
7. Not only knows that he himself is a greater sinner but also knows that he is a God's child who is loved by the greater God.
8. Endures and is patient with all the hardships and difficulties in order to reveal God's greatness who is highly exalted.

## Beatitude (4)

**"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Mt. 5:6).**

The Christian who is hunger and thirst for righteousness ...

1. Relies on only the righteousness of Christ that was imputed to him (Rom. 3:22).  
He acknowledges that all his righteous deeds are like a filthy garment (Isa. 64:6).
2. Seeks first His kingdom and His righteousness (Mt. 6:33).
3. Does the right thing in the sight of God.  
He walks on the right path with the right thoughts and doing the right things.
4. Does good (Tit. 3:1).  
He knows that he is created in Christ Jesus for good works (Eph. 2:10).
5. Obeys God's command in the Scripture (Acts 5:29).

## **Beatitude (5)**

**"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Mt. 5:7).**

The merciful Christian ...

1. Knows that God has been merciful to him (Ps. 59:17; 1 Pet. 2:10).  
He gives thanks to God because he who supposed to be destroyed due to his own sins knows that God has blotted out his transgressions according to the greatness of His compassion (Ps. 51:1).
2. Forgives those who have sinned against him (Lk. 17:4).  
Since he believes that God has forgiven all of his sins in Christ Jesus, he also forgives those who have sinned against him.
3. Is merciful to those who suffer with the heart of Jesus Christ (Mt. 9:36, 18:33; Phil. 1:8).  
Although he resolutely rejects and hates the sins of those who suffer because of their sins, he is merciful to them and helps them with the love of Christ.



## Beatitude (6)

**"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt. 5:8).**

The pure-hearted Christian ...

1. Pursues the purity of the body (Rev. 14:4).
2. Knows that no one can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin" (Prov. 20:9).
3. Believes that not only was all of his sins are forgiven, but also his heart are purified by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross (Ps. 73:1; Prov. 22:11; 2 Cor. 11:3).
4. Purifies himself from the things that proceed out of his heart that defile him such as, evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders (Mt. 15:18-19) and from the deeds of the flesh such as, immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these (Gal. 5:19-21). He prays to God, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10). Also, he lives with pure heart by keeping his way according to God's word (Ps. 119:9).
5. Lives a life of faith in front of the Lord whose eyes are too pure to approval evil (Hab. 1:13). He cleans himself from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1).
6. Experiences God's presence (Ps. 41:12).

## Beatitude (7)

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Mt. 5:9).**

The peacemaker Christian ...

1. Has a right relationship with God.

He is reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20).

He seeks intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ who is his peace (Eph. 2:14).

He lets the peace of Christ to rule in his heart (Col. 3:15).

He is anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, he makes his requests be known to God. As a result, the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, guards his heart and his mind in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6-7).

2. Has a right relationship with his neighbors.

He does his best to be at peace with everyone (Rom. 12:18).

He is faithfully fulfilling the duty of the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18).

He preaches peace through Jesus Christ (Acts 10:36).

3. Seeks the community harmony.

He makes effort to live in harmony with his family members in the community of his home and in the community of his church.

He pursues the things which make for peace (Rom. 14:19).

He is committed to build a community of love with one heart and one mind (Phil. 2:2; Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-35).

## Beatitude (8)

**“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 5:10).**

The Christian who has been persecuted for the sake of righteousness ...

1. Knows that it is blessing to be persecuted for the sake of Jesus (Mt. 5:11).  
Therefore, he rejoices and is glad even when he is being persecuted (v. 12).
2. Participates in Jesus’ suffering (Rev. 1:9).  
Like Jesus, he learns obedience from the things which he suffers (Heb. 5:8).
3. Benefits from suffering and enjoy it (Ps. 119:71).  
He knows that it is God’s will to suffer for doing good (1 Pet. 3:17).  
He turns from the wrong way through suffering and keeps the word of the Lord (Ps. 119:67).
4. Longs for the glory to be revealed in the future that cannot be compared with the present suffering (Rom. 8:18).  
He looks at the great reward in heaven (Mt. 5:12).  
Therefore, he chooses rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasure of sin (Heb. 11:25).

## **The rebellious Christians**

The rebellious Christians are heaping sin upon sin

By trying to strengthen themselves in the power of the world. (Cf. Isa. 30:1-2)

### **We should avoid her.**

We should avoid a dangerous person. Those who please God avoid her.

The reason why she is dangerous is because her heart is like snares and nets, and her hand are like chains.

The sinner will ensnare. (Eccle. 7:26)

### **Favoritism causes hatred.**

It is irony that Joseph was especially loved by his father Jacob at home (Gen. 37:3) and at the same he was hated by his older brothers (v. 4) even more to the point that they tried to kill him (v. 18).

Like this, father's (or mother's) favoritism causes hatred among brothers.

### **Beware of evaluating and being evaluated**

We pastors should beware of evaluating ourselves with the fruits of ministry and of being evaluated by the church members. The reason is because we as the Lord's servants are only doing our duties and the fruit of the ministry isn't what we produce but what God produces. (1 Cor. 3:5, 7)

## **"he cannot divorce her all his days"**

Let's say after marrying his wife he hates her, charges her with shameful deeds and publicly defames her and turn out that it wasn't true then he cannot divorce her all his days. (Deut. 22:13-19)

## **We should read the Bible all the days of our lives.**

We should learn to fear God and carefully observe all His word by reading the Bible all the days of our lives.

Then our hearts won't be lifted up above our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and we won't turn aside from His commandment, to the right or the left. (Deut. 17:19-20)

## **The way of peace or the way of pain?**

Being silent after I have sinned against God means that I am denying my sins in my heart. This means that I have chosen to walk the way of pain because i stick to my stubbornness. Anyone who chooses an easy way of peace confesses his sin to God immediately. (Ps. 32).

(As I read Mark D. Futato's "The Book of Psalms")

## **The pastors who keep themselves from being a burden?**

The pastors should be careful themselves

not to keep themselves from being a burden to their church members. (2 Cor. 11:9).

## **Severe famine is better than abundance?**

It is much better for God to lead us to the land of Canaan which has severe famine than we choose to live in Sodom and Gomorrah that is like the garden of the Lord and like the land of Egypt but the people are wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord. (Gen. 12:5; 13:10, 13)

## **Those who think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience ...**

Those who think lightly of the riches of God's kindness and tolerance and patience don't know that the kindness of God leads them to repentance and pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same themselves in their stubbornness and unrepented heart. (Rom. 2:2-5)

## **There could be more sin in that abundant place?**

There could be many wicked people who are sinning greatly against the Lord  
In that place when I see abundance. (Gen. 13:10, 13)

## **When our prosperity is threatened ...**

When our prosperity is threatened, we can be filled with rage and thus can create confusion  
and do something rash with no real cause. (Acts 19:25, 27, 28, 32, 36, 40)

## **My cross that I want to avoid?**

Our cross that we want to avoid in the midst of great trouble in our hearts ...  
But we must not forget that we came thus far for that cross ...  
(Cf. Jn. 12:27)

## **The path that I don't want to avoid**

Let us seek God's grace for us to faithfully walk the path of suffering and of death with the Lord.  
(Lk. 22:15, 22)