



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther
The First Chief Part: The Law
The Ninth & Tenth Commandments

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not craftily seek to gain our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor get it by a show of right, but help and serve him in keeping it.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not tempt, force or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

So these commandments are especially directed against envy and miserable greed. God wants to remove all causes and sources from which arises everything by which we harm our neighbor. Therefore, He expresses it in plain words, "You shall not covet." For He especially wants us to have a pure heart [see Matthew 5:8], although we will never attain to that as long as we live here. – **Martin Luther, Large Catechism, I, 310**

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he hurried and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all

complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." + **St. Luke 19:1-10 +**



A VERSE TO REMEMBER

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." – Genesis 1:27

Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus
James Tissot, watercolor – 1896