



Deadly Sin Two: Gluttony

There are different ways of looking at a word. You know words like there, their, and they're. What is the right word to use? Gluttony can be described like that. Is it over-eating or wasteful? Is it indulgence or seeking pleasure? This word is not just about food. Gluttony really leans towards filling our pleasure excessively. If you read the list of things Solomon owned, he was a glutton.

Deuteronomy 17:16 it says *"The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are not to go back that way again."*

2 Chronicles 1:16 *"Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue --the royal merchants purchased them from Kue at the current price."*

You get the picture. Solomon had over 40,000 stalls for horses. The Bible also mentions that he had over a thousand's wives. The trouble with gluttony is where to stop. By human standards, we can't. That's the trouble with gambling and over-eating. I like the last part of the Deuteronomy verse above "you are not to go back that way again." Is it back to Egypt or back to

gain more? Gluttony returns to the table, bar, bad friends, and bottle. It does not know when to quit the things that destroy. Yes, gluttony is deadly because it never ends until you have gone too far.

1 Corinthians 6:12 *“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.”*

That is, it. What masters you? How many women have gone back to an abusive relationship? I have heard countless stories of death and destruction. The same can be said for thieves, drunks, and liars. One too many always does you in. It's called gluttony. I think it's one of the deadliest sins. We tend to think of food with that word. I think food is near the bottom of the list. God asked us not to gather in the storehouse only. We must share. The Bible is full of instances of giving the poor the chance to glean off our wealth.

Just look at North America today. The rich own it all. More people rent today than ever before. The poor are given small tokens of money in the form of social services. Share the wealth? We are fooling ourselves if we believe that were helping the poor. Having the poor just get by is not helping them. Yet, the rich continue to rule and gather. Gluttony is rampant in our culture.

I have heard quotes that society gives on average about 1% to charity. I do realize that some poor are poor by their own devices. Yet, surely 1% is kind of low? They also say that 5% of Christians tithe 10%. I'm not big on forcing people to give and God isn't either. Yet, 5% tithing from Gods own people seems low. Gluttony has no religious boundaries. Gluttony means we have heart problems. Where our heart lies is a pretty clear picture of our glutton meter.

It's not about giving more. We all could and should do that. It's not about eating less although it might help. My example of tithing works. It's not a boast. We do it for two reasons. One is that it keeps us a little distant from gluttony. We just don't have the money to spend when you take 10% away. Secondly, our eyes and heart are open to those in need. God wants us to help. I want to help.

Gluttony puts on horse blinders. We see food, a bottle, or a blackjack table. I know a rich church that does not see the poor complex right beside them very well. Yet, they have about 20 cell phone antennas surrounding the cross on the top of the steeple. Money and gluttony will do that. I know another church that had their pastor retreat in one of the most expensive hotels. It was probably 700 dollars a night. Gluttony has reasons. Yet, the heart has better reasons. What is in your storehouse? How dedicated are you to gathering? Gluttony knows your reasons.