



## Deadly Sin Three: Greed

There are words that appear similar like gluttony and greed. Yet, I feel that greed is the driver for gluttony. We could call a greedy person a thief or a miser. They gather more than they need.

There is a good illustration of the struggle with greed. Sometimes we pass by a homeless person. The problem is how many there are. It's the stories we have heard of the homeless using the money given in a wrong way. I have seen a homeless man on his cell phone. Yet, people, in general, don't give just because. We need a reason. Greed lies in that place.

Why is it so hard to give a dollar? How many homeless people do you see through your pay period? Could you give one dollar? Greed comes in many forms. Why are you disappointed when you get the wrong present? Why did a person I know buy a 12000-dollar stove? I know someone who only gives when they think the sermon was good. Greed is an interesting cat. Is it more about the money or you?

Why is it a deadly sin? Gluttony is what we do. We gather, store, and clutch. Yet, behind it all stands greed. We want what we want. Most of the sin words circle each other. Lust, greed, gluttony, envy, and pride run on the same rails. I do believe that sloth and wrath do too in a slightly different way. We do get angry when our greed is tested. We are lazy with our money

because we don't want to spend it. These sins are deadly because they feed each other. It really goes way back to the Garden of Eden. The serpent knew exactly what button to push. God is holding back. There is something you don't have. God is not giving it to you. That is where greed began.

God said don't eat from that tree. The only tree? It's a garden with four rivers protruding from it. Eden wasn't small. Yet, they were enticed to eat of that tree. The one God said we can't have. Cain killed his brother because God favored Ables gift more. Greed is not having all the attention. Greed is giving the least you can. At my job, people cut as many corners as they can in order to get home faster. As a letter carrier, I probably work 6 hrs on a bad day. Yet, people still try and cheat to get home faster? Is greed the feeling of being ripped off when in reality your ripping off others?

The trouble with sin is the stigma with it. People just don't like the sin word. It's somehow offensive. We are entitled to certain rights according to the UN charters. Freedom of speech and freedom to be who we are. Yet, war means we have someone trying to take what is ours. In the process they not only take land but life as well. Greed states that if we kill them all then we have it all. It's simple math. Does our right to be satisfied overshadow the rights of others?

Sin is just a word like greed or gluttony is. However, no matter how you describe it, someone loses. You can't gather more than your share without depriving someone else of theirs. It's funny that some people just say tax the rich to solve greed. People got rich by having a knack of getting more than they need. Possibly more than they deserve. Should the less fortunate have some of what the rich gathered? Should they deserve it without working for it? Greed is deadly directly because we become focused on the one thing that will blind us: ourselves. A killer

focuses on the thrill of the life taken. A gambler focuses on the prize and not on the mounting bills. On and on we go looking for the next thing. Yet, health, people, and human rights seem to go south. Greed makes one fat by forcing you to indulge no matter the cost. Yes, it's deadly.