

Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Exodus 21: 17 *"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or his donkey, or anything which belongs to your neighbour."*

1 Kings 21: 20 *"Ahab said to Elijah, 'So you have found me, my enemy!' 'I have found you' he answered, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord."*

'I envy you your new car'; 'Mum, Jack's X-Box is better than mine'; 'Why has Amanda got her Covid jag before me?'

How regularly we fail to remember the commandments of God. We easily feel jealous of the possessions of others or covet their income, lifestyle or status. We fail to appreciate that these feelings are not worthy of God. In the current pandemic it is easy to get vindictive, cast blame or express resentment over perceived injustices.

Ahab was a vindictive and avaricious king of Israel led on by his even worse wife, Jezebel. After Jezebel arranged to have Naboth stoned to death in order to obtain his vineyard, Ahab was harried by Elijah the prophet and informed of God's wrath at his behaviour.

It is easy to be blind to one's own failings when feeling stressed and envious. Ahab deeply repented his behaviour and was consequently spared any heavenly retribution. We too should abandon our sinful thoughts and seek forgiveness which is on offer from God for those who truly repent. That way every person can come through this terrible time kinder, more caring, more loving and more full of grace.