

The Seven Deadly Sins – Gluttony

First of all I want you to continue to pray for me that God would help me to be more faithful to this ministry. There really is a lot going on in my life right now and I could use all the prayers that I can get. I actually began working on this lesson several months ago and am just now finishing it. Maybe Satan doesn't want this message to get out..

In our last lesson I introduced the seven sins which have been commonly referred to as the seven deadly sins and discussed the first of these sins – lust. I want to reiterate that all sin is deadly, but I do think that it's worth taking the time to study these. I encourage you to go back to the archives and read the last lesson before reading this one.

As we look at the sins throughout this study we'll find that many of them are similar, although different. As I'm sure you know, gluttony is usually recognized as excessive eating.

I guess the first thing that we need to do is establish that gluttony is, indeed, a sin.

- (12) I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God.
- (13) And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.
- (14) And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness *there lay* a small round thing, *as* small as the hoar frost on the ground.
- (15) And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, It *is* manna: for they wist not what it *was*. And Moses said unto them, This *is* the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.
- (16) This *is* the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, *according to* the number of your persons; take ye every man for *them* which *are* in his tents.
- (17) And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.
- (18) And when they did mete *it* with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.
- (19) And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.
- (20) Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

This passage is, of course, taken from the wanderings of Israel in the wilderness. They were given strict instructions about how much to gather, and yet some desired more than their share. This really is what makes gluttony a sin – it's a desire for more than you need.

Gluttony is often listed alongside drunkenness in Scripture. In Proverbs 23:21 we're told that both the glutton and the drunkard will come to poverty. With the price of food these

days one should be able to understand how that would be so. Since the Bible teaches that we are to be good stewards of the riches that God has placed in our charge it clearly becomes sinful to become wasteful in our eating.

I think that the comparison of the drunk and the glutton gives us a better understanding of what the sin of gluttony is really about. The drunk will not stay away from his drink. Neither will the glutton stay away from excessive food. An occasional overeating does not qualify as gluttony (although it is advisable to be sensible in your eating even then).

Romans 13:14 tells us to not make provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. In other words, when we give in to the fleshly desire to indulge extravagantly then we are focused on the flesh rather than the Spirit. Paul expands on this a little more in Philippians 3:18-19 when he says that the enemies of the cross have their belly as their god. You see, the glutton is so caught up in gaining more for his belly that he sets aside Spiritual growth.

I realize this is a short lesson, but I want to try to ease my way back into getting these lessons done. I do truly desire your prayers for this ministry. I believe that God wants this ministry to continue, but Satan continues to put barriers in the way. Prayer can remove those barriers. I am also still interested in receiving contributed material.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich