



## **“Thou Shall Covet”**

**Realities**

**Jacob Bender**

**Courage Church**

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Today, we are closing our series on the Ten Commandments. If you weren't here for some of the earlier

messages in the series, here is a brief recap.

One famous name for the ten commandments is the name “The Decalogue.” which comes from the Greek words for “Ten Commandments” which is “*deka logos*.” *Deka* means ten, and *logos*, which we translate as commandments, actually means words, but *logos* comes from the word *logue* which means “*logic*” - I am sure that you are familiar with the phrase “Its only logical?”

It is only logical that if you drive your 15 foot truck under a bridge with a 12 foot clearance, you are going to have an accident.

These are not speed limits, where if you don't get caught breaking then you will go about your day no different.

These are realities. These are gravity. If you break these, they will break you, but if you keep these, you will have the best kind of life.

Did you hear that? The Ten Commandments were given *for you*. They were given for your benefit. In fact, the Hebrew people that the Ten Commandments were given too considered it a Ketubah between them and God. Throughout the entire old testament, we hear about the marriage between God and Israel, and the Ten Commandments were the terms to that marriage.

These are not rules handed down from an angry God.

This is a mutually beneficial covenant between two parties, and the benefits are greater than you could ever imagine.

Today is special. The tenth commandment is special. It is the one that ties them all together in a truly beautiful way.

So as we close our series on the 10 Realities, I think it would only be appropriate to open your bibles up to Exodus 20, and read them one more time.

Exodus 20:1-17. We are going to go back to where we started today, as we look at the commandment that ties them all together.

And God spoke all these words, saying,

**2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

I have called today’s message “Thou Shall Covet.”

All of you are thinking, “you are missing a NOT in that title.”

But I am not.

The shortened way that people tend to say this command is simply “Thou shall not covet” but that is not the Hebrew command.

In English, the word covet, is a bad word. In English it means “a yearning to possess or have something.”

I have heard it put this way, it is an inward grasping for something... something that is not yours.

It means you don’t have something, and you yearn for it. Maybe we think we are nothing without it.

We hear that word, and right away we default to the Ten Commandments. Right away, we think, this is a bad word. This is something that we must not do. Ever. Under any circumstances. I think that the word we typically associate to it is the word jealousy. Or the word envy... and where the command as a whole may be getting at that, those things are not the same as coveting, in the way it was written on the tablets. Not at all.

The Hebrew word written on the tablet that we translate as “covet” is the word “*chamad*”.

And “*chamad*” is a good thing. It’s a beautiful word that demonstrates a satisfaction with what God gave you.

The word “*chamad*” means “Delight.” or “To take pleasure in.”

So when you say that you are coveting something, if you are actually quoting the tenth commandment, you are saying that you “Take delight in that thing.”

I covet my wife. I absolutely covet my wife. I take delight in her. In fact, as the days go by I hope and pray that my delight for her only grows and grows.

I covet my children.

Honestly, you should covet (*chamad*) your friends. Your friends carry a lot of weight. They are very valuable. You should delight in the fact that you have them. You should delight in your relationships. They are gifts.

To say you *chamad* something does NOT mean you are jealous of it, it means that you delight IN IT.

What you should not do, is covet your friends *house*.  
What you should not do, is covet what your friends *have*.

God has given you specific things in this life that are tailor made just for you.

For your life.  
For your family.

and to not delight in those things would be a slap in the face to the God who gave them to you.

You see, the problem lies in when you covet what is not yours. The command does not say Thou shall not covet.

Thou shall covet.  
Thou shall certainly covet.

But thou shall never, ever covet what belongs to someone else.

The tenth commandment is one that demands that we enjoy the blessings that God gave us rather than always looking for greener grass on the other side. The grass is always greener until you get to the other side. Then you realize, “this is just as jacked up as my grass.” OR “this grass makes my grass look pretty green.”

In the winter, its easy to think that the grass is greener in California than Detroit... but that grass gets really dry in the summer and when 25 years pass and you haven't had a winter one time and you don't know what year it is, and you finally realize how old you are and how much time has gone by that you didn't even realize because the seasons never changed, maybe you will start looking for homes with driveways you have to plow in the winter. The bible says that “Hell and destruction are never satisfied and so neither are the eyes of man ever satisfied.” (Proverbs 27:20) - we always want more. We always want what others have and hell is working night and day to put before us that which is not ours to take our eyes off of our blessings. Hell can never get enough, and it always gains citizens by convincing us that we should have something different than we have, or our lives should be different than they are. Again, you can trace it all the way back to the garden. Eve wanted what she didn't have. She had it all, yet still still wasn't satisfied. She had to have the one thing that she couldn't, and in the end it cost her everything.

You need to be content with your lot. With what God gave to you. And you should shepherd what you have and work to improve what you have. Covet your own marriage, enjoy your marriage, while you continue to work on your marriage so that tomorrow you will still be coveting it.

Are you getting this? Work on what you have, so you will keep coveting it.

In fact, the word picture for Ten is the letter “yod” and it is the picture of an arm with a hand on it. It symbolizes work.



Think about it. We should delight in what we worked for. We should not covet what we didn't.

Do you covet the yard that your neighbor has worked on?

Why did you waste all that time thinking about his yard, instead of working on your own? Great yards take work. and its just as much work envying someone else. You can spend your whole life doing that!

Do you covet your neighbors marriage?  
Or do you WORK (yod) on your marriage?

If you are willing to work, you will be able to earn that which you can delight in. You would not have to delight in someone else's field, because you have worked so hard for the field that you have... instead, you enjoy the field that you have.

We just bought a house, and man, at first glance it seemed livable, but the whole thing was a mess. As we started pulling off gross panels we found moldy plaster, the mildew smell that filled the whole house was finally being diagnosed as mold in a majority of the walls.

Live old knob and tube wires were starting mini fires in the walls like I told you about last week... it was just a mess.

And our church has been so incredibly gracious to help our family work on that house and get us in. And we are planning on moving into it in the next week or so. But the fact that we worked so hard to bring that house back to life in such a new way over the last few weeks, has me delighting in it more already. Not because we are defined by our work, because like we talked about during the "Resting" message, we are not defined by what we create.

But when you work for something and then experience the fruit of that work in your own life, there are so many biblical principles like that of sowing and reaping, baring fruit in your life. Its really incredible to step into the results of your labor, and it is ok to covet those things. In fact, we should covet those things. We should delight in the blessings that God gave to us.

Now, some of you are probably thinking to yourself, "I don't know about this. These are the Ten Commandments. I have been taught these all of my life. I am pretty sure that coveting is always bad.

I am trying to create a culture here that loves Jesus, and who loves the bible, and we practically lives it out every single day. The Apostle Paul told Timothy that ALL scripture is breathed out by God, that it is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that it is PROFITABLE.

and sometimes we look at these old scriptures from the straightforward and often negative ways we have grown up hearing about them, and we may wonder, how is this profitable to me? So that is what I am doing. I am trying to figure out, “what is this really saying? And how does it apply to me?”

I want these to be discussions. I want you guys to study that way too. There is a free website called [www.blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com) and its the best free resource I have ever seen. You can type in a verse, click a word, and it will give you the Hebrew or Greek meaning, as well as commentaries on it and other times its used in the bible. Search this stuff for yourself! One of the times the word *chamad* is used is in Psalm 19:10, when it says that the law of God is to be DESIRED (*chamad*) more than gold. Its translated as desire, not covet. But its the exact same word.

Here is another time its used:

Psalm 68:16 says “Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount that God desired for his abode, yes, where the Lord will dwell forever?”

The word desired? Its the word “*chamad*” (huh-mad).

Its the word covet.

God coveted the land, where he will dwell forever.

How could God break a commandment? He didn't. The command is not to not covet. It is to not covet what is not yours to covet.

Proverbs says to “Delight in the wife of your youth.” (Proverbs 5:18)

Delight there is a different Hebrew word (*samach*) but its the same principle.. Life should be enjoyed. If everything is this robotic discipline

where we never let ourselves feel anything, or never let ourselves get excited about anything, we will limp through life and miss everything that was in front of us. Everything good that God had intended for us.

My kids are only going to be this age for a little while. I need to covet these moments, NOW not ten years from now looking back thinking “man, if only I could go back and have that time with them again, I would have enjoyed it more.”

I want to enjoy them now. I want to make memories that produce smiles when I am older because I enjoyed what God gave me and what God allowed me to work for.

I have this friend in New York City named Charles. And I don't think that Charles realizes that he does this, but he makes me value moments more than I would if he was not a part of my life.

Here is an example. Yesterday was my birthday so somehow this memory came to mind about last year on my birthday... Last year, at the end of my “birthday weekend” he wrote me a text, and he said “Happy Birthday.” Then he asked me this question:

What meant the most to you this weekend?

A simple question. But a loaded one.

And suddenly, I had to stop. And I had to think. And I had to remember. At first I was reluctant to give him a real answer, and instead respond in some generic way that would have not required any more thinking, but instead I decided to go with it. And a moment that easily could have been forgotten, I had found myself recalling as I responded to his question. I probably used less words when I replied then I will speak now, but it was a long text message response.

My wife and her sister had to go to a baby shower that Saturday which was the day after my birthday, so I watched all the kids and their cousins for most of the day... it was me with five little girls. Dawn had rode her bike into Park Slope for whatever reason, and locked it there at the train station



and met her sister at the baby shower in Manhattan, and then her sister drove her back home. Her sister then took all the kids for the night and Dawn and I went out for my birthday.

Dawn and I lived in this neighborhood that everything was bikeable. So dates typically involved biking across the Brooklyn Bridge into Manhattan, or biking to downtown Brooklyn and having dinner or coffee. Dawn asked me if she can ride on my bike to go and get her bike... and she told me that her bike was at the Smith and 9th street station which was only a few blocks away from us. So I put her on my handlebars like we were ten years old... and my bike is not really at all set up for that, but we tried. And we struggled. and we laughed.

And then we stopped, and repositioned, and tried having her sit behind me. And tried having her on the seat while I stood and pedaled... and for some reason, on this brisk fall night in Brooklyn, New York, I felt like a teenager again falling in love with my bride all over again. I have no idea why, but it was just one of those moments.

I met my wife when I was 22 years old, and I still can see in my mind like I am watching a movie, moments from the first time I met her, and many times thereafter where I can literally watch myself falling in love with her. And nine years later, that night in Brooklyn, it just felt like that.

When we got to the Smith and 9th street station, she realized she had misspoke. Her bike was actually at the 4th Ave. and 9th street station, another mile away. So the adventure continued. And when we finally made it to her bike, and she got off my bike and onto hers, we rode together and tried a new BBQ restaurant in Gowanus, Brooklyn.

Able to cover much more ground on two separate bikes.

and that may seem like a “nothing” memory to someone who wasn’t there. But to me, as I recalled it while texting my friend, I literally had tears in my eyes thinking about how much fun we had together. My smile was frozen in time as if someone had taken a picture, but it was only in my mind... thinking about the life that I get to live with the most amazing family in an absolutely amazing place where I get to ride my bike almost all year round

across beautiful famous bridges and to delicious restaurants and live in a neighborhood that if I ate at a different restaurant every night I still would never be able to try them all.

It did something in me, to recall that memory that I easily could have forgotten had he not pushed me.

And Charles responded thanking me, for sharing a beautiful memory with him. And if you know this guy, you know how genuine it is. Some of you met him when you went with me to New York this summer. Adam, Austin and Mario went with me when I spoke out there, and we stayed with Charles. And we were all sitting around the kitchen table, and he looks at the guys and he asks them:

“What is your favorite thing about Jacob?”

It was so awkward for me. But it ended up working wonders on my heart as I heard so many kind words from these men that I had just began to get to know... and it did something to them too. Not that I am anything special, but God did place me here to be their pastor, and it forced them to dig in and find the good. I am sure that there was already plenty of things that could have come to mind that were not good, but the question he asked put them on the spot forcing them to dig into the good that God had given them.

And for me to hear that good, knowing how jacked up I am, it was total life to me.

It made me see each of them a little differently and to this day I believe it has added value to our relationship.

How do you view what God gave you? How do you talk about it?

Is it enough for you? And if you think that its not enough, you need to ask yourself, why?

Because God gave you a world all your own. Distinct to only you, and your family, and its exactly what you need, and that is reason enough to enjoy it.

One of the most out of balance views of the gospel is the one that makes you feel like you always have to be a martyr... always a victim, and you can never enjoy anything. If you walk around that way all the time, you are going to start to get ugly. You are going to turn into something very cold.

Live your life like you are supposed to be here.

If you do end up a martyr, don't covet the ones who had an easier life. For most of us, we will fall right in the middle. There will be others who have it worse, and some who have it better. But what matters is how you treat what *you* have. How you steward that which is yours to steward.

The Apostle Paul put it this way, "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:11-14)

Think about what he is saying. He is letting us in on the greatest secret ever. That you can be content in all things, no matter what your circumstance, through Christ who gives you strength.

You can enjoy your life no matter where you are, because of what Christ has done for us. Because on your worst day, Jesus died to wash that all away. When you failed in every way, Jesus still thought you were so valuable that you were worth dying for.

That is the secret. You don't have to be thinking about what is next all the time or how you can get what you don't have all the time. The Apostle Paul was content sitting in a prison cell chained to a different guard every day when he penned this. And he makes a comment in the first chapter saying that his imprisonment has actually served to FURTHER the gospel.

Because He saw every circumstance as an opportunity.

For the Apostle Paul, his entire net worth was wrapped up in the way that he represented Jesus to people. He had *learned* what it was to live a life

you were satisfied in no matter what, because the fruit of it belongs to Jesus. But one word that we tend to overlook is the word learned. Paul did not always have this. Paul used to struggle with coveting. In fact, if you read Romans 7, we learn something incredible about the Apostle Paul. He tells us that the tenth commandment was instrumental in his coming to an understanding of what a relationship with Christ actually means.

From the time Paul was 13 he assumed his own responsibility for keeping the law. He knew the laws, and for years was extremely religious about it. But something changed in him one day when he was going over the commandments, and he got to the tenth. He says, "I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet..."

Paul says that he had life before he understood this commandment. At least he thought he had life. He thought he was on the right track, everything was good... Until this command came. He says that when this commandment came (Romans 7:9) suddenly sin came alive and he "died."

Then he said this, and we quote it often: "The very command that promised life proved to be death to me" (Romans 7:10)

This command showed him something.

It showed him what his life should look like.

And it showed him what his life actually looked like.

If he honored this reality, everything in his life would be enough. Everything that God gave him, as much or as little as it may be, would be enough. But for Paul, at that moment, it wasn't.

It wasn't enough.

And he needed this commandment to illuminate that reality in his life. So it caused him to look at his life and realize, "the type of life that this commandment is describing DOES NOT LOOK LIKE MY LIFE." and he let himself be convicted by that Reality. And he forced himself to be changed by it.

So much so, that later in his life, when he is stripped of everything he had and thrown in a prison, he was able to say “yes. I am exactly where I am supposed to be. I am more than just alright with this.”

“I see Jesus in this.”

Paul learned the secret.

It wasn't just given to him in an instant. He learned it over time through trial and error and study and experience and years and years of coveting what is not his and always doing what he knows he is not supposed to do (Romans 7:15)

When he found himself with nothing, he realized he had more joy than he ever had been before, because for the first time in his life, he didn't *want* anything.

Our entire culture is based around how we get what we want. as if what we want is what matters... but what we want doesn't matter. What we have matters. Not because we are defined by it, but because God trusted us with it.

And God trusted us with Ten Realities that come with a promise that if you keep these you will have a life that you can truly love. And God keeps his promises. He is there with us when he gave them to us, and he is walking alongside us as we try to live them. He is so amazing.

Look at this. This will change your life if you understand this. God is just so big. He is in everything.

Remember how we talked several weeks ago about how in Hebrew, the way they tell stories is to always start with the conclusion... well the Ten Commandments are no different.

Because “yod” also means God. If a Hebrew person were to see that letter sitting all by itself, they would tell you

“That is the name of God.”

The same thing that the all of the Realities started with. Remember, “I am the Lord your God who brought you out of somewhere bad... so now you can ENJOY something good.”

Have no other gods before me.

Don't look to other gods, and delight in other gods, when God has given himself fully to you. Enjoy God. Enjoy the world that he gave you. Enjoy the family that he gave you, and the land that he gave you.

We can spend our whole lives running around, maybe even with a good heart serving everybody, trying to help everybody, wishing we could do more than we are doing... wishing our church was bigger than it is... wishing we had more friends, or more money... when God wants us to be thankful for what we have now.

At the end of the day, I can aspire toward a hundred different dreams and goals, but if my wife suffers in the meantime, what good is that? If I don't enjoy her, and delight in her, what good is aspiring for more anyway?

And what is amazing is that the more I delight in her, the more delightful she becomes. The more I delight in her, the more there is to delight in.

If there is one thing in this life that I am learning to value more and more each day, its her. God didn't give me my world so that I could go after another, he gave me my world because I am the one he deemed most fit to take care of that world. He gave me my world, to LOVE my world.

And that woman is my world.

My kids are my world.

Then comes this church, which is also my world but not at the expense of that world (my family).

Growing the church to something its not yet is far less important than shepherding what it is.

Growing the church to something that its not yet, is far less important than making sure my family knows how much my love for them grows each and every moment I get with them.

Whatever is next for you can not take precedence over what is.

Or you will miss your entire life.

On Thursday at prayer, Justin had everybody write down specific people that needed prayer on a notecard, and then we put each one on the screen one at a time and all prayed together for each. And one of the requests was "Single People." and having studied the tenth commandment a great deal this week, that was the first thing that came to my mind for single people. Let them covet their lives, now. Let them delight in what God gave them, now.

A lot of single people, they covet those who have relationships... people tend to think that if that one area of your life would just come together, everything else will too... but the truth is, God is leading you somewhere. Somewhere only you can go...

and its easy to look at others who have what you desire and covet them... but what you don't understand is that if you covet what you don't have now, you will covet what you don't have later. And everything is a trade. Its not just an accumulation. Its not barns and bigger barns. You don't get married and have kids and still have the social life you once had. It doesn't work that way. Every circumstance comes at a cost.

When you get in a relationship, things change. When you have kids, they change even more. Suddenly, you can't just go out with your friends whenever they call. Suddenly you have to go home when everyone else is going out.

And its the best! For parents who delight in what they do have, there is nothing better in all the world.

But if you aren't happy without it, then you won't be happy with it. You will find yourself coveting the ones who don't have to check in. Who don't have to take care of other lives who are completely dependent on them. I truly believe that for the person who desires to get married, that is a blessing that God wants to give you. But if you can't find contentment without it, I am telling you, you truly will never find contentment in it.

For an uncontent person, all it will do is add a world of responsibility to the exact same feelings.

You have to learn this, first. Because your life, right now, has so many blessings. It has so many reasons to give praise to Jesus... so many reasons to be thankful.

Get your priorities straight. And the first nine commandments do the work for you. If you focus on living the first nine commandments, your priorities will straighten right out.

And the tenth command is the one that connects all of these together.

You would never covet what is not yours, if God's name is a Reality in your life. Because if his name is a reality, then so are His promises. But if you take the Lords name in vain, if you make the Lords name an unreality, you will find yourself coveting what is not yours.

If you don't honor your neighbor, you will covet what he has. and if you covet it bad enough, you just may steal it from him. And if that doesn't work, and you want it bad enough, you just may kill him. Micah 2 (1-2) talks about people who wake up coveting other peoples fields, and so they take them by violence.

It says that they do it, because it is in the power of their hands to do. There is a thrill there, to act on those desires. To use your strength to take from others and add unto yourself. We all have done it. For whatever reason we think that we deserve something more than someone else. They got a promotion... They have the bosses ear... Whatever it may be. We covet what the have, and then maybe we don't take anything physically from them, but maybe we start talking about them. Gossiping. Bearing false



witness. Why? Because the Reality is, most of the time you don't truly want to hurt that person, you just want what they have.

If you covet your neighbors wife, and you don't honor him, you would have no problem stealing his wife. You would have no problem committing adultery.

But if you honor him, you won't touch her. No matter what your circumstances may be.

If you have the 5th, you won't do the 6th, or the 7th, or the 8th, or the 9th.

In fact, many of the Rabbis taught that the tenth commandment was a REWARD for keeping the first nine commandments. Let me explain.

If you keep the first nine, the 10th will be automatic.

Think about this. 10 is God's name. We are back to the beginning.

and from the beginning, if there are no other gods before God, what will happen? There will not be other gods. But if God is not first in your life, you will be controlled by whatever is first. The first four build off each other, and if you have the fifth you won't do the next four.

Because honor changes everything.

It opens the inside door.

And has a ripple effect on all the latter commandments.

And it turns the tenth command from a rule, into a reward.

Do you want a life that you can covet? A life that you can absolutely delight in? A life that at the end of the day, you can sit back, and realize, "yeah, I am jacked up. I messed up a hundred things today, six hundred things this week, 2 thousand things this month..."

and yet I can delight in my life, right now.

I can praise Jesus for what he is doing in my life, right now. I can delight in my lot. In the place God has brought me, in the calling that he has given me, in the family he has given me. In the friends he has given me.

Do you want to turn the tenth command from a rule, to a reward?

Start at the beginning. God must be first in your life. And when there is no doubt in your mind that he is first in your life, move onto the second. Look at your life, and determine, what are the gods that I am having trouble letting go of? And get rid of them so you can move onto the third. Where you honor his name for what it is, the name above all names... The only name in which there is true and lasting rest.

And when you approach your week from a position of rest, you can deal with people honorably. And that will cover the next four.

Honor teaches us what people are worth.  
And who wouldn't delight in a life surrounded by people worth everything?

People are worth everything.

If you honor someone... if every person that you come in contact with, you treat as if they carry weight, as if every word they say matters, as if everything they do will have a forever impact, you would never kill them, you would never cheat on them, you would never steal from them, you would never lie, gossip or slander them... they are just too valuable.

You would never cheat on your wife you you realized how much she was worth. It would not even be possible. If you delight in your wife... if you "covet" her because she is actually yours to covet, you will never want anyone else.

When you delight in the Lord, and you delight in his rest and let it refuel you every single week... when you REMEMBER that you were once a slave to a nasty and ruthless slave driver, but God brought you out... suddenly you realize, wow. I have a great life. God is on my side, and he really does have my best interests at heart in all of this.

And when the first nine are a Reality in your life, guess what?

You will not want anyone else's life. And that is a Reality.

You won't want another church, or another family, or a different spouse. You won't need to move to a new city or a bigger house, or get a better job. If God opens the doors, you consider what ones you go through, but you never have to go looking for a new life.

Because you will have a great life.

Even the most simple moments like riding a bike will make you feel so alive, and so in the center of the will of God that you won't even think about whats on the other side of the fence. You won't even think about greener grass.

The first nine commandments are how you water *your grass*.

The tenth is how you enjoy it.

I was thinking on Friday afternoon about that moment with Dawn, riding together on that bike... Because we were sharing a bike, but really, we were sharing a memory. We were watering our grass.

And I thought about everything that lead us to that. And how comfortable we were because most days we have two bikes... and after you ride on one bike with two people for long enough, one bike per person will start to feel like a luxury. Most days I ride, I have one or two of the babies on the bike with me too. When I take the baby seat off of the bike, it is a totally different bike. It is a luxury.

But I started thinking about that day. about that moment, and I realized, "that is one of my favorite moments." and then I had this thought, "and we only had one bike."

Circumstances were not perfect.  
Yet it was perfect.

In that moment, one bike was all we needed.”

Maybe its all we ever need.

Yes, wherever we are going, we will get there slower, but we will still get there, with a thousand still frames stuck in our heads of memories we created along the way.

Maybe we should slow down anyway. And enjoy what we have.

And we are going to create a way better memory trying to cross town with two adults on one tiny bike, than we ever would have if we had rode separate.

Because like i said earlier, you can cover more ground with two bikes...

but why has everything in our lives become about covering more ground?

Instead of covering more ground, just water the ground you already have, you just may find yourself falling in love with your life.

Delight in the life God gave you.

You will have a blessed life. You will have the life that you were created to have, and its then that your life will become the most creative. Its then that you will start noticing that your life is bearing the fruit of the spirit every place you go, every single day.

Its then that you will find yourself having favor with your neighbors. With your bosses. With your inlaws.

When you covet your own family, you will have a home life that you can't wait to get back to at the end of every day. And your life will be attractive to people. You will be like a magnet. Your life will shine the love of Christ everywhere you go each and every day.

But it starts with the first. God has to be first in your life. He brought all of us out of the horrible messes that we created and deemed you and I worthy to be called his sons and daughters.

The ten commandments start by saying “I brought you out.” You didn’t deserve it, but I did it anyway.

They start with God.  
and they start with grace.

and the tenth commandment ends it by giving you something. Something that you can be proud of. Something you can enjoy.

But again, something you don’t deserve. Maybe you worked for it, but you still don’t deserve it.

The ten commandments end with grace.  
and they end with God. With the Hebrew letter YOD. The letter for God.

Because he is the beginning and the end, the author and the finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2) and he wants to marry you. So he gave us this covenant completely filled from beginning to end with grace that we do not deserve, and even when we break the covenant, he proposes again.

Because he wants so badly for us to enter the promised land.

He created it for us, and its just waiting.

And if you are in this place and you are sick of waiting for your promised land to come to you... maybe you are at a crossroad. Maybe you just need to take a step into what God has promised you in this marriage.

God takes care of his bride no matter what the cost. Even when it cost him His son. It was the ultimate proposal. When Israel walked away from every other one, God did what only he could do. He proposed with his blood. He said, “when I say I am willing to die for my bride, I mean it.” And so Jesus died on the cross for all of our sins because he could not bare being apart from us any longer. It was the perfect act of reconciliation, and he has been

proposing to us ever since. And he is proposing to you now. Maybe you are hearing it for the first time. Or maybe you are here and you are thinking about the Ten Realities and what they actually mean for your life and you realize, "I need to give myself over to this." This life is better than the life that I had yesterday, or last week. That is what Jesus wants for you. And its simple. All it takes is saying yes. This is a marriage contract.

The Ten Commandments are a Ketubah between you and God.

Its a contract. And God already signed it.

Now its your turn.