

Proverbs 27:23

Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds.

If you tend to your own lawn, the grass will never be greener on the other side.

We know that there are Ten Commandments which God gave to us in the book of Exodus. And one of those commandments, which is the tenth commandment, has to do with covetousness.

† **Exodus 20:17** *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."*

So, if we put this in today's terms, you could think of it as wanting your friend's or neighbor's house because of all the cool stuff inside, or how well the house looks on the outside as well as the lawn and trees and flowers. If you ever stopped to think about it, the reason the house is that way on the inside and the outside, is because the people that live there put effort into it to make it look that way. The husband worked hard to get the things that they have inside, and worked to maintain the outside of the house as well as the yard. The wife took care of the things in the house and tended to the garden with the flowers, plants, and vegetables.

But you go home and see that your lawn is dead and not mowed, the house needs painting, the trees and bushes need trimmed, and everything inside is falling apart with holes in the sofa and chairs. Your TV is so old that it still has rabbit ears on top of it. Your sound system is a boombox sitting on a few milk crates.

So, do I even need to get into cars, and that nice car your neighbor or friend has? Yet your car is falling apart and is in the shop all the time and has dent and is so dirty that you can't even remember what color it is anymore?

Even their kids are better behaved, saying "Yes Sir" and "Yes Mame" to the adults where your kids are more into their cell phones and could care less that someone older, or just someone in general was around.

So, what ends up happening is that we covet what someone else has, and the reason we do is simply because we are lazy. Think of my opening statement that I feel the Holy Spirit gave to me several years ago.

"If you tend to your own lawn, the grass will never be greener on the other side."

When you covet, you are saying that you do not want to do all the work that your neighbor or friend put into having all that he or she has, you just want the results of that hard work.

It's time to stop looking at the results of what others have because of the hard work they put into those things, and start looking at what God has given us, and we need to put hard work in

maintaining what He has blessed us with. Once we do, we won't have time to want what someone else has put hard work into getting, because we will be too busy enjoying what God has blessed us with.

† **Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 (NLT2)** *Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life. And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God. God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past.*

† **Proverbs 13:4 (NLT2)** *Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.*