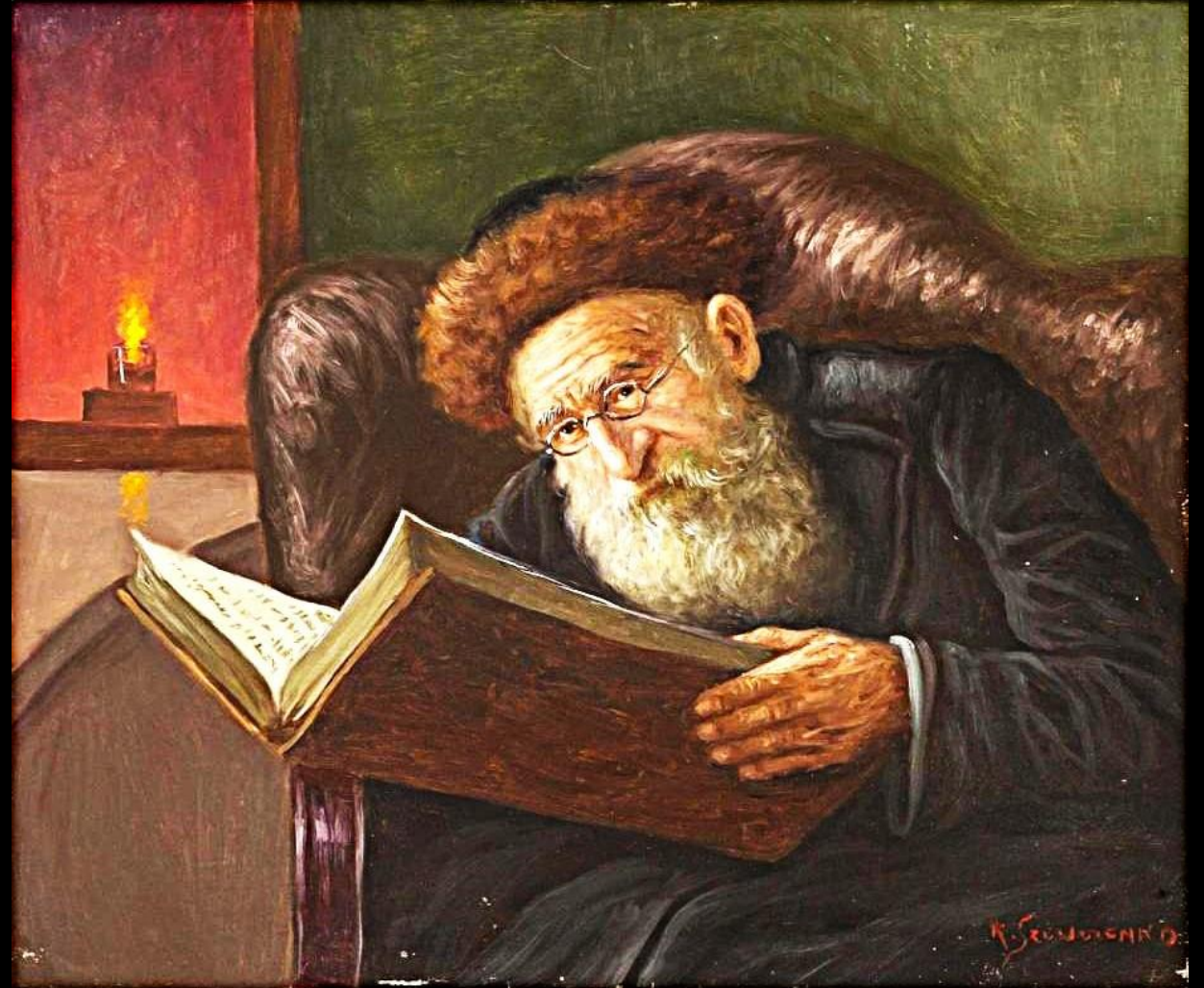


Torah Studies

The Tenth Commandment Exodus 20:17

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



Reading Rabbi – Konstanty Szewczenko

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Introduction

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Introduction

Previously in Exodus:

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Introduction

Previously in Exodus:

- Going through the five Books of Moses, we stopped to look at the Ten Commandments one by one.
- After going through Commandments One through Nine, we are now on the last of the ten.

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 20:17:

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 20:17:

- The Tenth Commandment warns us against covetousness.
- It reminds us that before sin becomes an outward action, it begins in the heart.

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 20:17:

- We will look at the nature, roots and manifestations of covetousness.
- Then we will focus on contentment and gratitude.

Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

- Psalm 119:173-176 (NKJV)

173 Let Your hand become my help,
For I have chosen Your precepts.

174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord,
And Your law is my delight.

Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

- Psalm 119:173-176 (NKJV)

175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise You;
And let Your judgments help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep;
Seek Your servant,
For I do not forget Your commandments.

The Tenth Commandment

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Introduction



The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Introduction

- Since this is our final commandment, let's read through all ten.



The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Message Outline



The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Message Outline

- I. The Nature of Covetousness
- II. The Roots of Covetousness
- III. The Manifestations of Covetousness
- IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude



I. The Nature of Covetousness



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- Coveting begins in the heart (Inside), leading to actions that violate God's design (Out).
- This is why we need to cultivate right attitudes of the heart.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- We need to distinguish it from mere admiration.
- The difference hinges on intent.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- Think about whether the desire leads to contentment – as with admiration.
- Or if it leads to discontent – a longing sadness over not having that thing.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- Covetousness is an intense, selfish desire to possess something that belongs to someone else.
- It often comes with envy or an inclination to harm another or take a thing unjustly.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- Exodus 20:17

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. The Nature of Covetousness

- Covetousness has a wide scope.
- It can include anything that rightly belongs to someone else – and/or that we simply have no right to.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- James 1:14-15

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- Temptation begins in the heart, with our own disordered desires.
- Temptation is not automatically sin (Jesus was tempted.)
- But there is an inner line we can cross before we ever act out on the thing that tempts us.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- Also, sometimes we are tempted but we hate the temptation.
- That is a good sign.
- The very struggle can keep us close to God.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- Psalm 10:3

For the wicked boasts of the
desires of his soul,
and the one greedy for gain
curses and renounces the Lord.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- True covetousness can enjoy the evil desire.
- It can even be the reason that a person rejects God or renounces the Lord.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- Jesus emphasized the inward nature of the covetous heart.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- **Matthew 23:25-26**

25 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.



I. The Nature of Covetousness

- It's not so much cups and plates Jesus was talking about.
- The scribes made themselves look good on the outside while being full of greed and self-indulgence.



II. The Roots of Covetousness



II. The Roots of Covetousness

- Covetousness stems from discontent and then moves into envy and idolatry.
- It traces all the way back to the Fall.



II. The Roots of Covetousness

- **Genesis 3:6**

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.



II. The Roots of Covetousness

- The serpent's deception began by getting the woman to desire the forbidden fruit.
- She had no right to the fruit of that one tree.
- Yet she looked at it and wanted it before she ever took and ate it.



II. The Roots of Covetousness

- Evil desire and covetousness make an idol out of the thing we cannot have.



II. The Roots of Covetousness

- Colossians 3:5

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.



II. The Roots of Covetousness

- Envy is also part of covetousness.
- With envy we look longingly at what someone else has.
- In doing so, we feel a sense of unfairness as if that thing should somehow rightfully belong to us.



II. The Roots of Covetousness

- Ecclesiastes 4:4

Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.



II. The Roots of Covetousness

- We might wonder how much of what some people accomplish is the result of an unhealthy sense of competition with others.
- They want what the other has without conceding the other's right to have it.



III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- Coveting manifests as envy of others' relationships (e.g., spouse), possessions, or status.
- It leads to sins like theft or adultery.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- Joshua 7:19-21

19 Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.”

20 And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did ...

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- Joshua 7:19-21

... 21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- In the case of Achan, the Israelites were not allowed to keep any of the spoils of Jericho for themselves.
- Achan gave in.
- He wanted the things he saw in the conquered city.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- Then we have the case of David with Bathsheba.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- **2 Samuel 11:2-3a**

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. 3 And David sent and inquired about the woman.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- We know the rest of the story.
- David's desire eventually led to adultery and then to murder.
- But it began in his heart when he saw Bathsheba from the roof of his house – and desired her.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- There once was a brother who wanted Jesus to settle a dispute between him and his brother.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- Luke 12:13-15

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

14 But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ...

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- Luke 12:13-15

... 15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- Covetousness can make us think that what we have somehow defines us.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- We can also try to mask it.
- We can try to cover it up in ingenious ways.
- Consider Judas.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- John 12:5-6

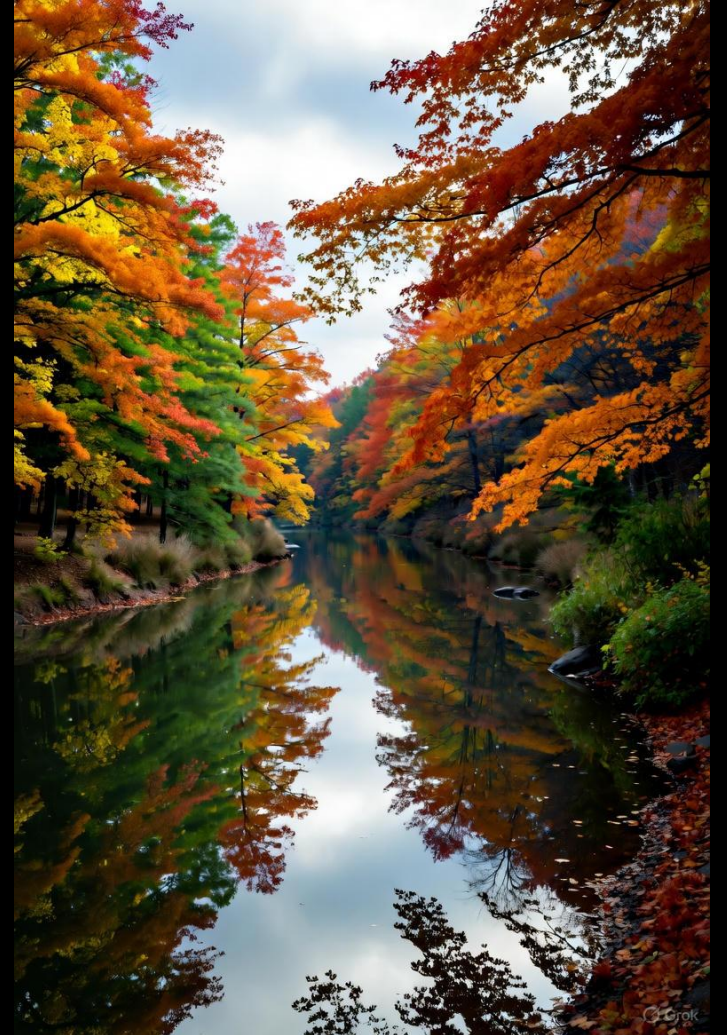
5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

III. The Manifestations of Covetousness



- Judas cared less about the poor than about his own pockets.
- But he tried to criticize a woman's generosity – a quality he never had.

IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude



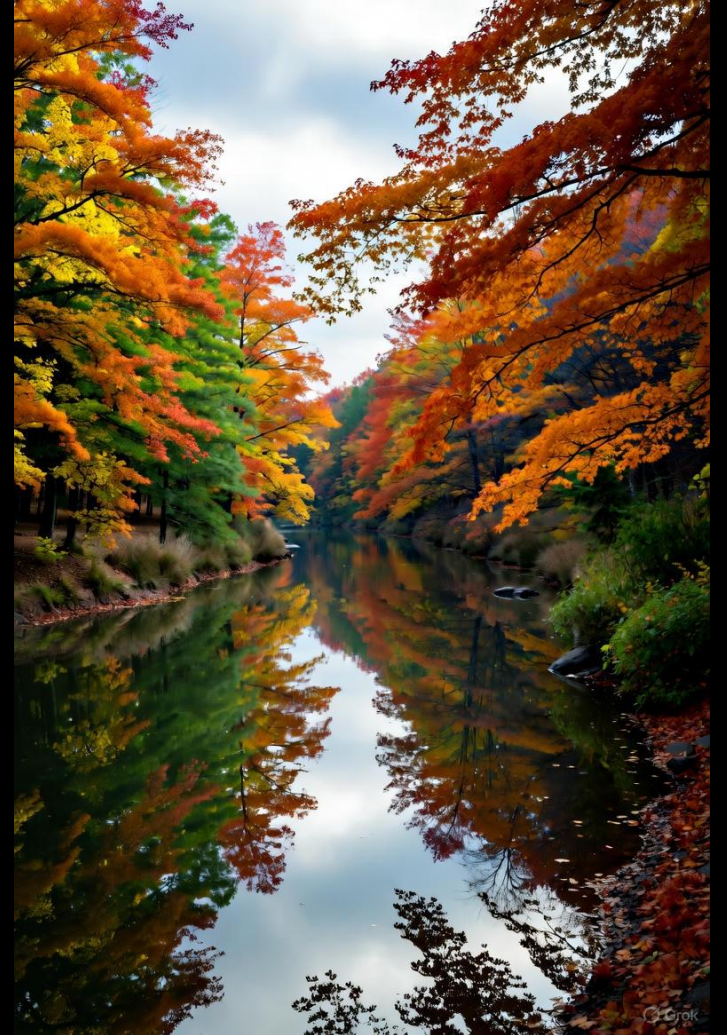
IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- Contentment trusts God's provision (Inside), leading to grateful living and generosity (Out).
- This fulfills the “Two Sides” approach to obeying the commandment



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- Paul considered his own contentment one of his greatest accomplishments.



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- **Philippians 4:12-13**

12 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. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- Next time you think of the “I can do all things ...” statement, remember that in the original context it meant knowing how to always be content.
- Godliness with contentment is great gain.



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

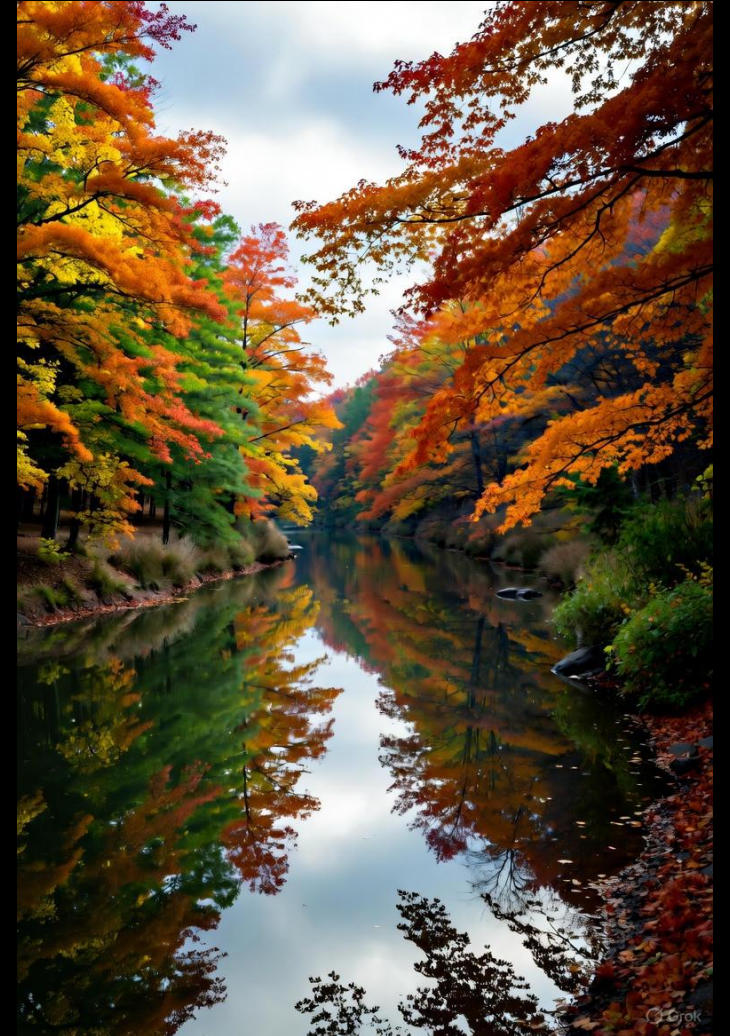
- 1 Timothy 6:6-8

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- Contentment is closely related to gratitude.



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- Ephesians 5:17-20

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is... singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



IV. Practicing Contentment and Gratitude

- Contentment and gratitude are the enemies of covetousness.
- When they fill our hearts, covetousness has little room.
- And as we've seen, covetousness is at the root of all kinds of sin.



The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Conclusions



The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Conclusions



The Dangers of Covetousness

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Conclusions



The Dangers of Covetousness

- Covetousness begins in the heart.
- It is at the root of all kinds of troubles and all kinds of sins.
- James may have said it the best.

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Conclusions



The Dangers of Covetousness

- James 4:1-3

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, ...

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Conclusions



The Dangers of Covetousness

- James 4:1-3

... so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.
3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Conclusions

Having Jesus is Better Than Anything.



The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Conclusions



Having Jesus is Better Than Anything.

- Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

The Tenth Commandment

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Conclusions



Let's Make It Our Goal to Seek First
the Kingdom of God.

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

Conclusions



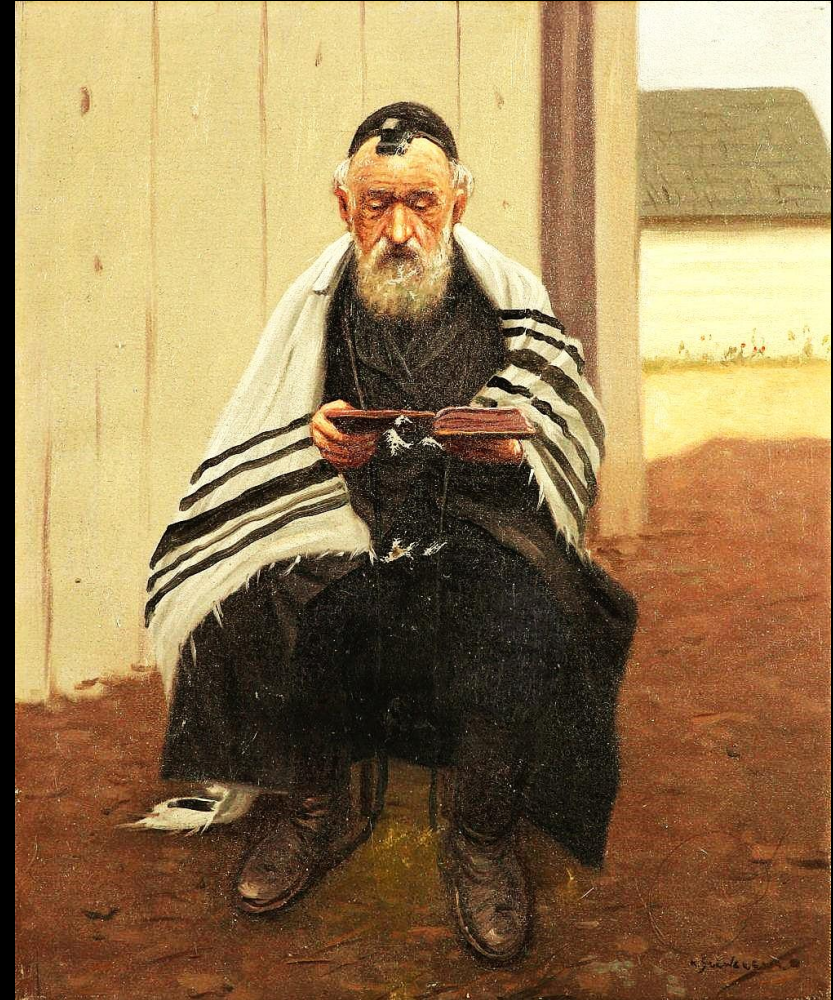
Let's Make It Our Goal to Seek First
the Kingdom of God.

- For a closing passage let's read
Matthew 6:25-33.

Torah Studies

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names

Next Week:
Various Additional Laws
Exodus 21 – 22



Tefillin – Konstanty Szewczenko