

Proverbs 21:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

Analysis

The wicked 'coveteth greedily all the day long'—constantly consumed by desire for more. By contrast, 'the righteous giveth and spareth not'—consistently generous without holding back. These opposite orientations reveal different heart conditions. The wicked person operates from scarcity mentality and selfish grasping; the righteous from abundance consciousness and generous trust in God's provision. Covetousness violates the tenth commandment and demonstrates idolatry—making material things ultimate. Generosity reflects God's character and trust in His promises. The righteous person gives freely because he understands that everything belongs to God and that generosity produces blessing. Conversion transforms economic behavior from hoarding to stewardship and from grasping to giving.

Historical Context

Israel's law included provisions for systematic generosity—tithes, gleaning rights, Jubilee debt forgiveness. Righteousness expressed itself through economic justice and generosity.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Does your use of money reflect covetous hoarding or righteous generosity?
2. What specific acts of generosity is God calling you to that you're resisting?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	הַ יּוֹם	הֵתְאָוָה	תְּאָוָה	יָצַד יְק	אֵל ! תֵּן	לֵא
H3605	all the day	He coveteth	greedily	long but the righteous	giveth	H3808
	H3117	H183	H8378	H6662	H5414	

וְחִשָּׁרְתָּ:

and spareth

H2820

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:26 (Parallel theme): He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

Psalms 112:9 (Righteousness): He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

Ephesians 4:28 (Parallel theme): Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.