

Title: You Shall Not Steal

Passage: Exodus 20:15

Summary:

- I. Read the context
- II. Obey the command
- III. Look to Christ
- IV. Be Content.

Key Truths:

- We are all thieves from birth. We are not to take a thing that the Giver has not given.
- Have you ever failed to give the love, respect, mercy, or forgiveness that God has commanded you to give? If so, you are a thief. You steal. You steal God of His glory.
- Your work is not in vain. God sees you and applauds your work. Always remember His grace.
- Contentment learns to trust and obey a wise Father who loves us in all His dealings. Every second of your life, your Father is wise and your Father does good for you. It depends on Christ and distrusts your conditions. You cannot base your reality on circumstances but look to Christ.
- Contentment realizes your every complaint is not against things that grieve you but your every complaint is against your God who is loving you and who has ordered all things for your good.
- Contentment sees trials as part of God's good medicine. We can still bow with cheer that God is all too wise to make a mistake and far too good to make any crime. We learn to trust and obey God.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How have you violated this commandment?
- How may your focus or perspective be different the next time you are tempted to steal?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Passage:

Exodus 20:15

“You shall not steal.

EXPOSITION

Overview

- I. Read the context
- II. Obey the command
- III. Look to Christ
- IV. Be Content.

I. READ THE CONTEXT

Exodus 20:1-3

And God spoke all these words, saying,

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

“You shall have no other gods before me.

- God had rescued the Israelites from centuries of slavery.

Exodus 12:35-37

The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.

- Previously, God graciously provided the Israelites in many different ways.
 - Began with leaving Egypt with all that they needed.
 - Even in the desert, God repeatedly gave

Psalms 23:1, 5

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want...You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalms 84:11

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Isaiah 40:29

He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- We worship The Giver. Give glory to Him alone.
 - Contrast: Do not worship the false gods or Satan (who steals).
- Do not take a thing that the Giver has not given.

Stealing

- We are all thieves from birth.

Psalms 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

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.

- original sin is breaking this commandment. Theft occurred.

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

Questions of reflection:

- Have you ever manipulated someone to give you something?
- Ever snuck in anywhere?
- Any borrowed with no plan to return it?
- Ever used anything for any unauthorized purpose?
- Ever used ideas without permission?
- Ever copied without giving credit?
- Any personal business on company time without approval?

- Have you ever failed to give the love, respect, mercy, or forgiveness that God has commanded you to give?
 - If so, you are a thief. You steal. You steal God of His glory.
 - As God's image-bearers, we belong to God and not us.
 - So much of our lives is violation of the Eighth Commandment.

Romans 13:10

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

1 Samuel 8:9-22

- description of king that the Israelites desired instead of God.

1 Samuel 8:17-18

He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

We worship God. God worked and gave. We worship the Worker and the Giver.

Isaiah 65:21-23

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

- Picture of the the New Heaven and New Earth: we will work for God's glory.

Revelation 21:8

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

1 Corinthians 6:10

nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

- Unrepentant thieves will not come into heaven.

II. OBEY THE COMMAND

Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

- Your work is not in vain.
- You will reign with God.
- He sees you. God applauds your work.
 - Whether it be praying
 - Whether it be as a parent at home
 - Whether it be working a job not earning as much as others.
- Always remember God's grace.

III. LOOK TO CHRIST

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

- Zacchaeus: previously a thief as a tax collector
 - Jesus called him and Zacchaeus repented. Salvation still came to him.

Jesus and the thief on the cross

Luke 23:34-43

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

- Thief even with a lifetime of stealing found salvation and grace through Christ upon turning to Him in repentance.

IV. BE CONTENT

Philippians 4:11

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

- Contentment learns to trust and obey a wise Father who loves us in all His dealings.
- Every second of your life, your Father is wise and your Father does good for you. It depends on Christ and distrusts your conditions.
- You cannot base your reality on circumstances but look to Christ. Your spirit works indoors to quiet the heart.
- Contentment realizes your every complaint is not against things that grieve you but your every complaint is against your God who is loving you and who has ordered all things for your good.
- Contentment sees trials as part of God's good medicine. We can still bow with cheer that God is all too wise to make a mistake and far too good to make any crime. We learn to trust and obey God.
- In the end, there is nothing we can think to steal.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.