

God Values Integrity

Exodus 20:15–16

Wayne Braudrick

November 15, 2026

Life Change: We are integrous

The importance of the 8th commandment…

God values integrity re: things **Exodus 20:15**

I have:
____ Fudged on taxes
____ Done less than my best work
____ Padded an expense account
____ Shoplifted
____ Mistreated an employee
____ Overkept a loaned book instead of promptly returning it
____ Enjoyed a meal out on the company card when there was no need

The reach of the 9th commandment…

God values integrity re: words **Exodus 20:16**

Check all that apply:
____ Dishonest interactions ["I'm fine!"]
____ Exalting own accomplishments/minimizing responsibility
____ Blaming others
____ Holding on to anger/self-righteousness
____ Sinning with angry words
____ Selfish/parsimonious with words
____ Cursing
____ Speaking ungraciously

What to do when you are the victim of larceny:

Know that this isn't singular — John 16:33

Value trust rather than looking to separate — Proverbs 16:28; 18:1

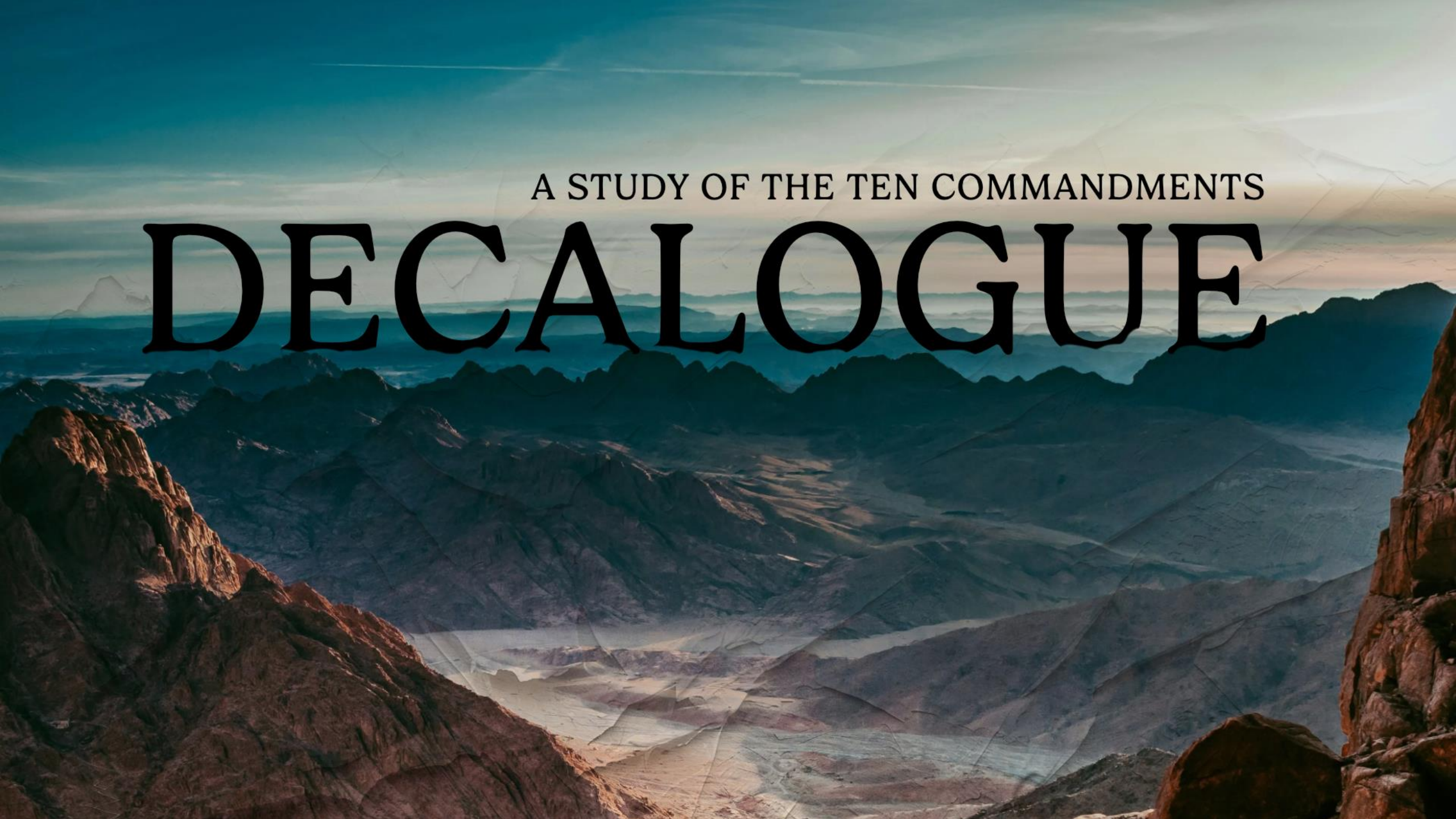
What to do when I have lacked integrity:

Acknowledge & repent — Proverbs 28:13

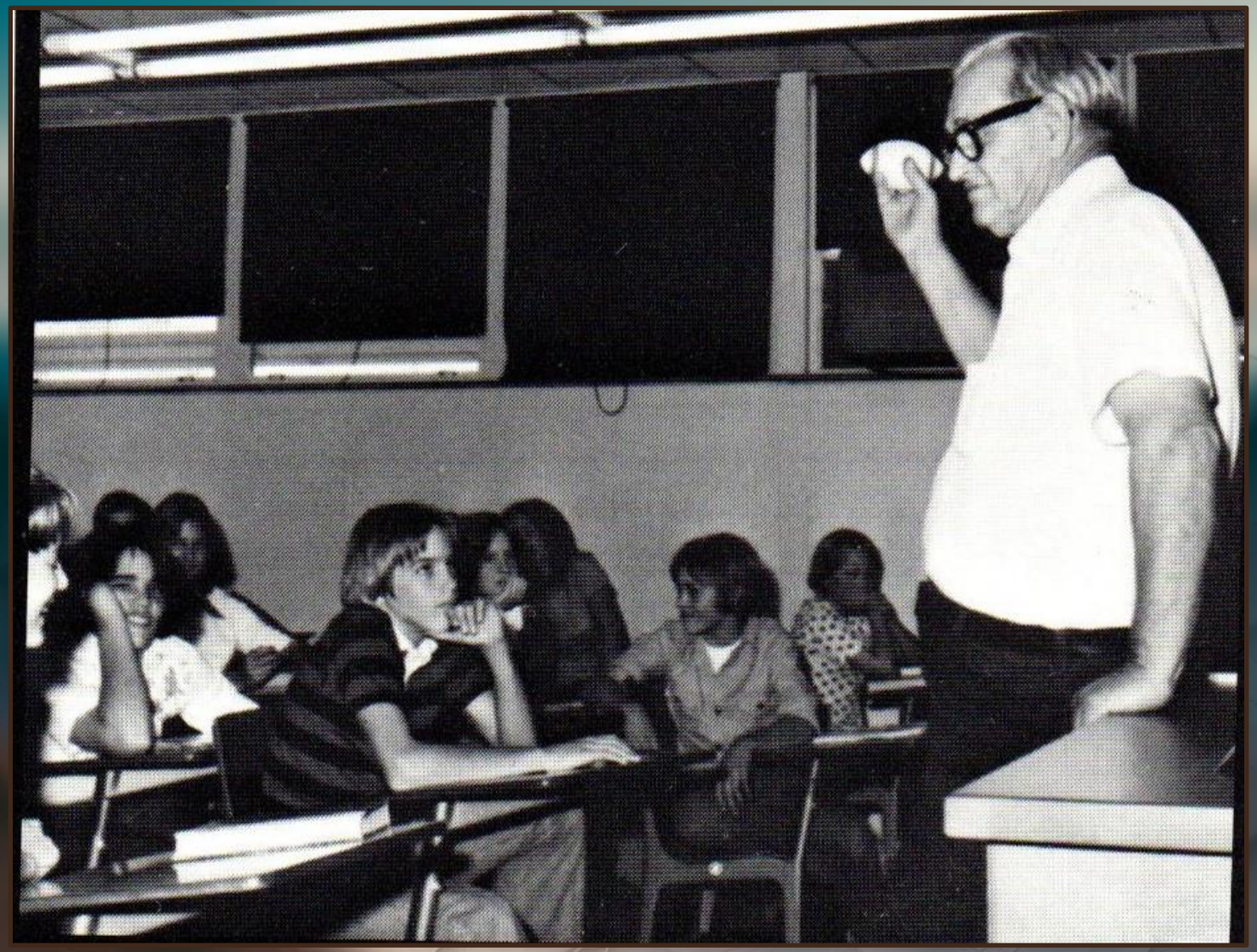
Make restitution — Leviticus 6:1–7

Accept God's cleansing in Jesus — 1 John 1:8–9

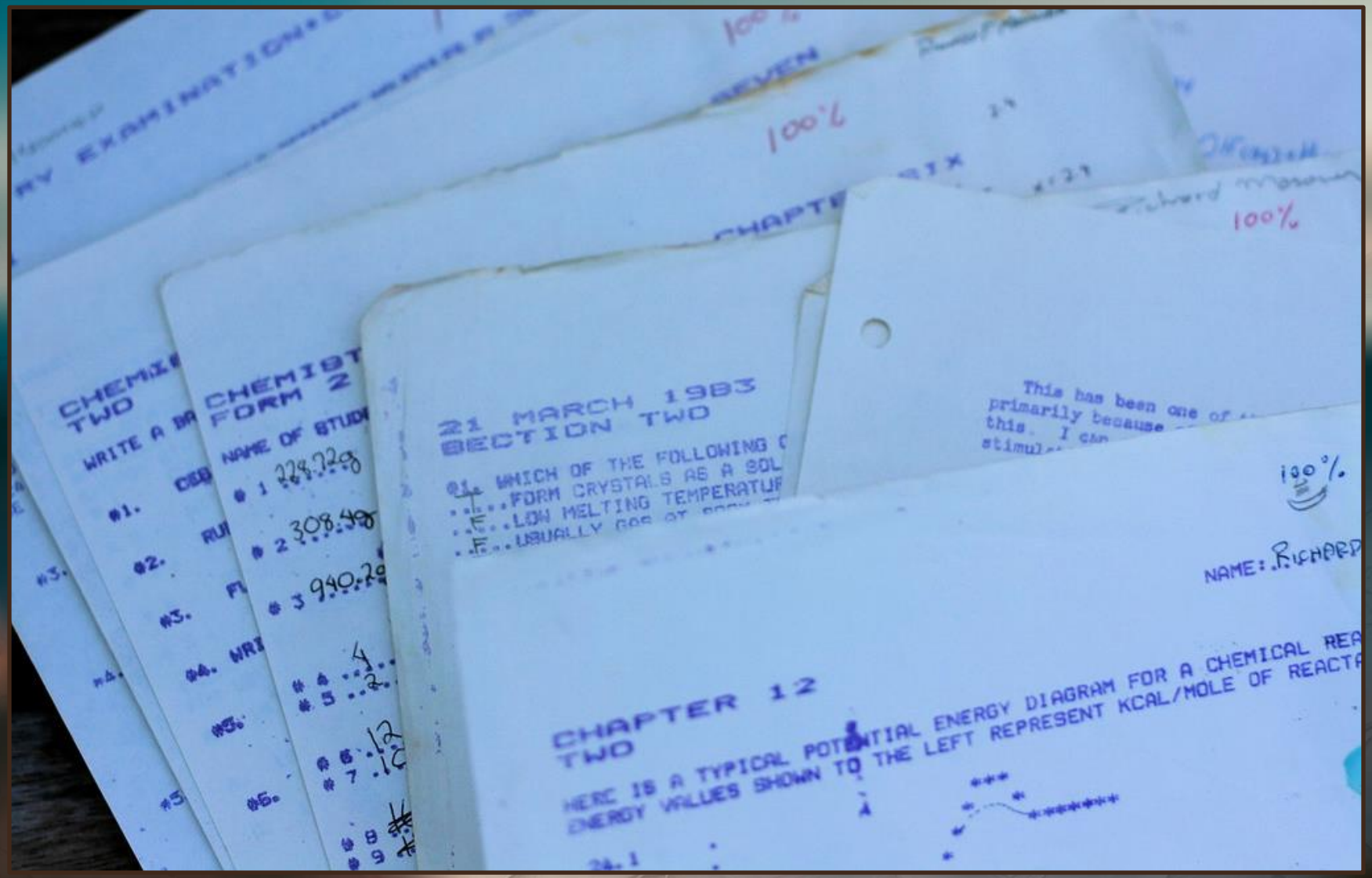
Upcoming Events | Give | Connect With Us
PRAYER REQUEST? Visit www.friscobible.com/prayer


A STUDY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
DECALOGUE


20:15 Do not steal.
GEN
EXODUS
LEV
NUM
DEUT
JOSH



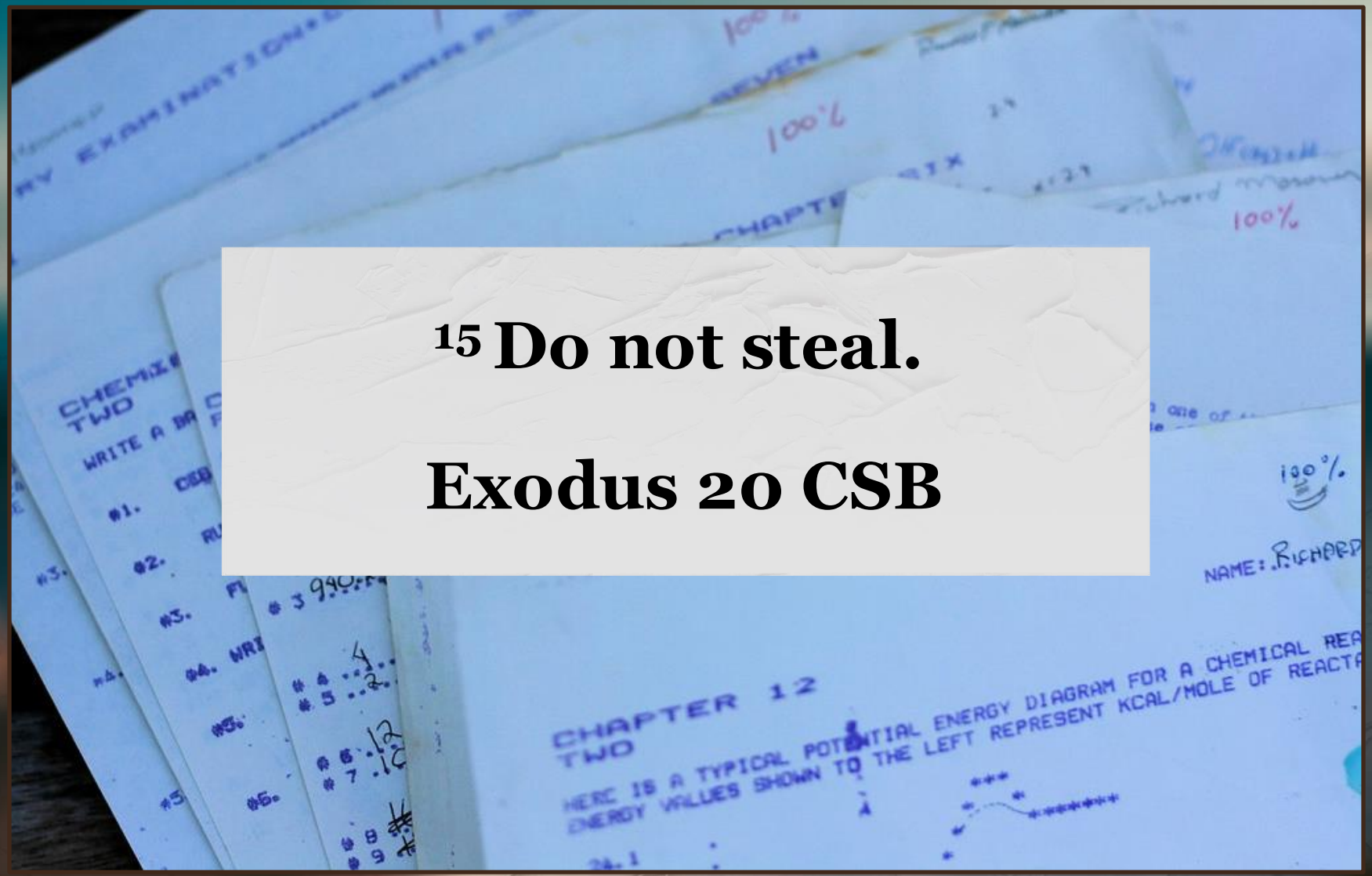
courtesy PC Schools



courtesy flickr



courtesy NASA

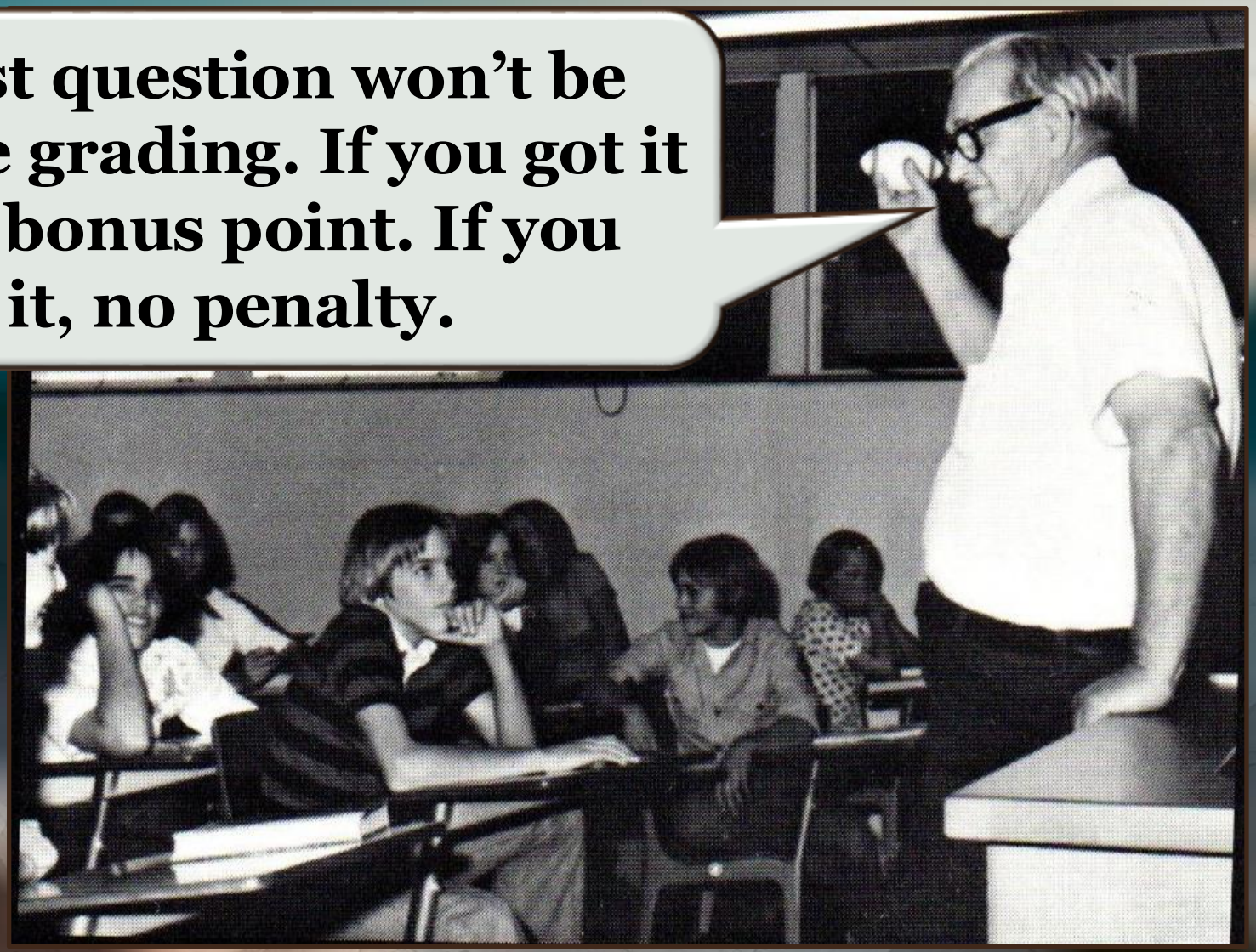


15 Do not steal.

Exodus 20 CSB

courtesy flickr

Class, the last question won't be counted on the grading. If you got it correct, one bonus point. If you missed it, no penalty.



courtesy PC Schools

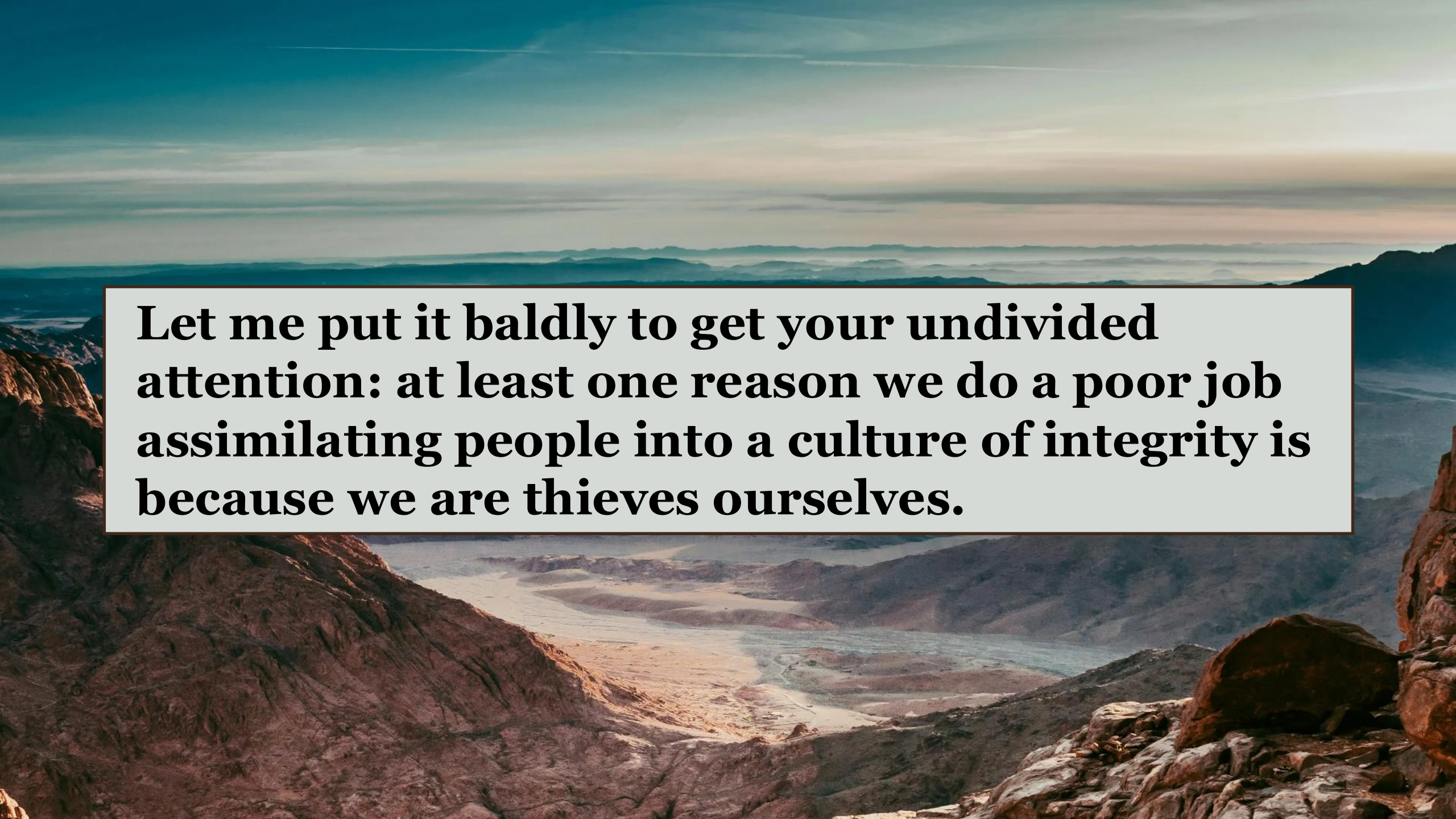

20:15 Do not steal.
GEN
EXODUS
LEV
NUM
DEUT
JOSH

GTA assumes that theft is natural.





courtesy City of Frisco



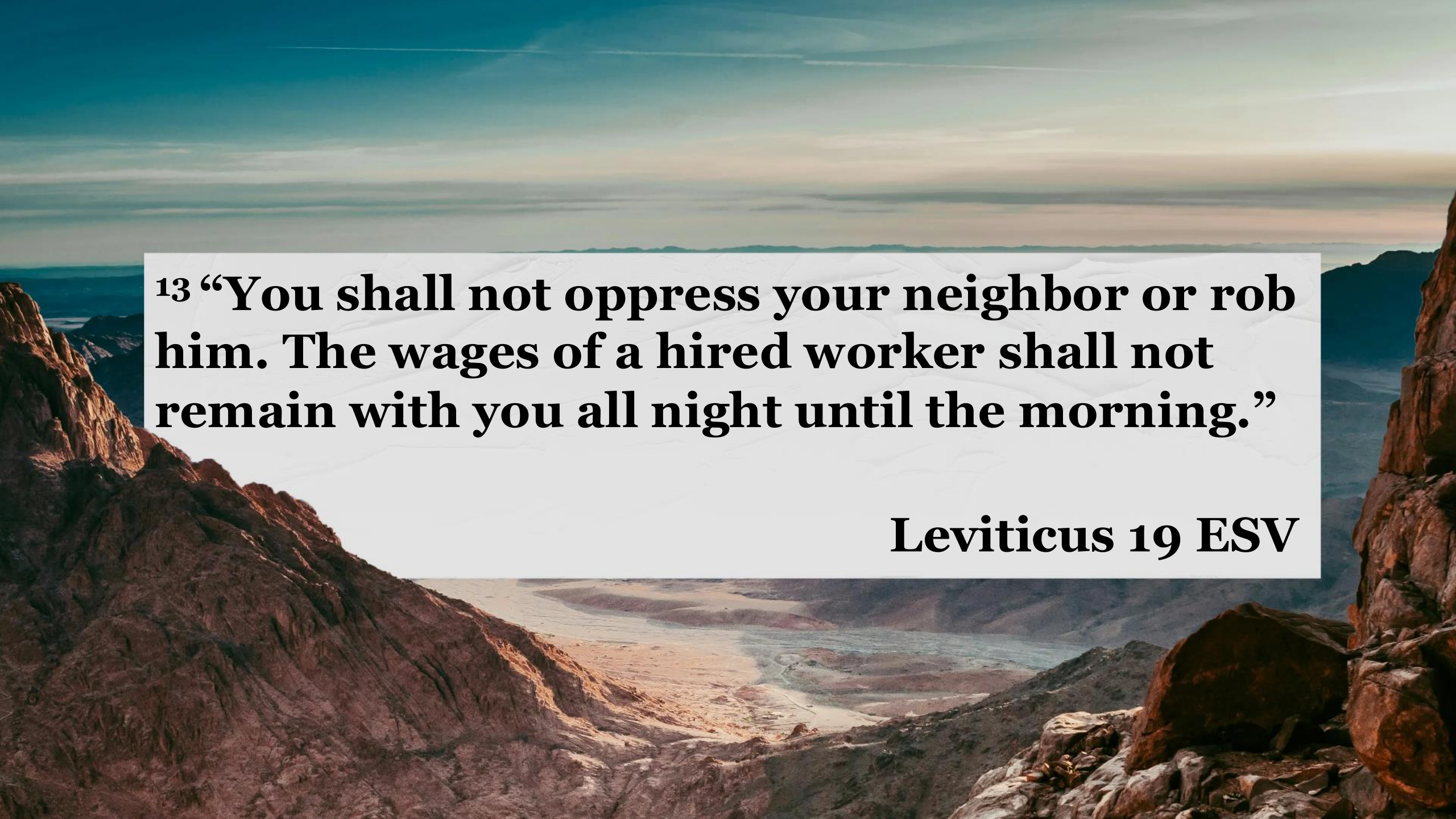
Let me put it baldly to get your undivided attention: at least one reason we do a poor job assimilating people into a culture of integrity is because we are thieves ourselves.

“Types of White-Collar Crime” by Chris Drew on *Helpful Professor*, August 24, 2023



courtesy crimpsy


Wage Theft (when employers steal from employees)
Other types of theft
Minimum Wage Violations
$23.2 BILLION
Overtime Violations
$8.80 BILLION
Rest Break Violations
$4.00 BILLION
Off-the-clock Violations
$3.20 BILLION
Larceny
$5.30 BILLION
Burglary
$4.10 BILLION
Auto Theft
$3.80 BILLION
Robbery
$0.34 BILLION
*all $ amounts are per year
*all data is for the U.S.
SOURCE: ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE



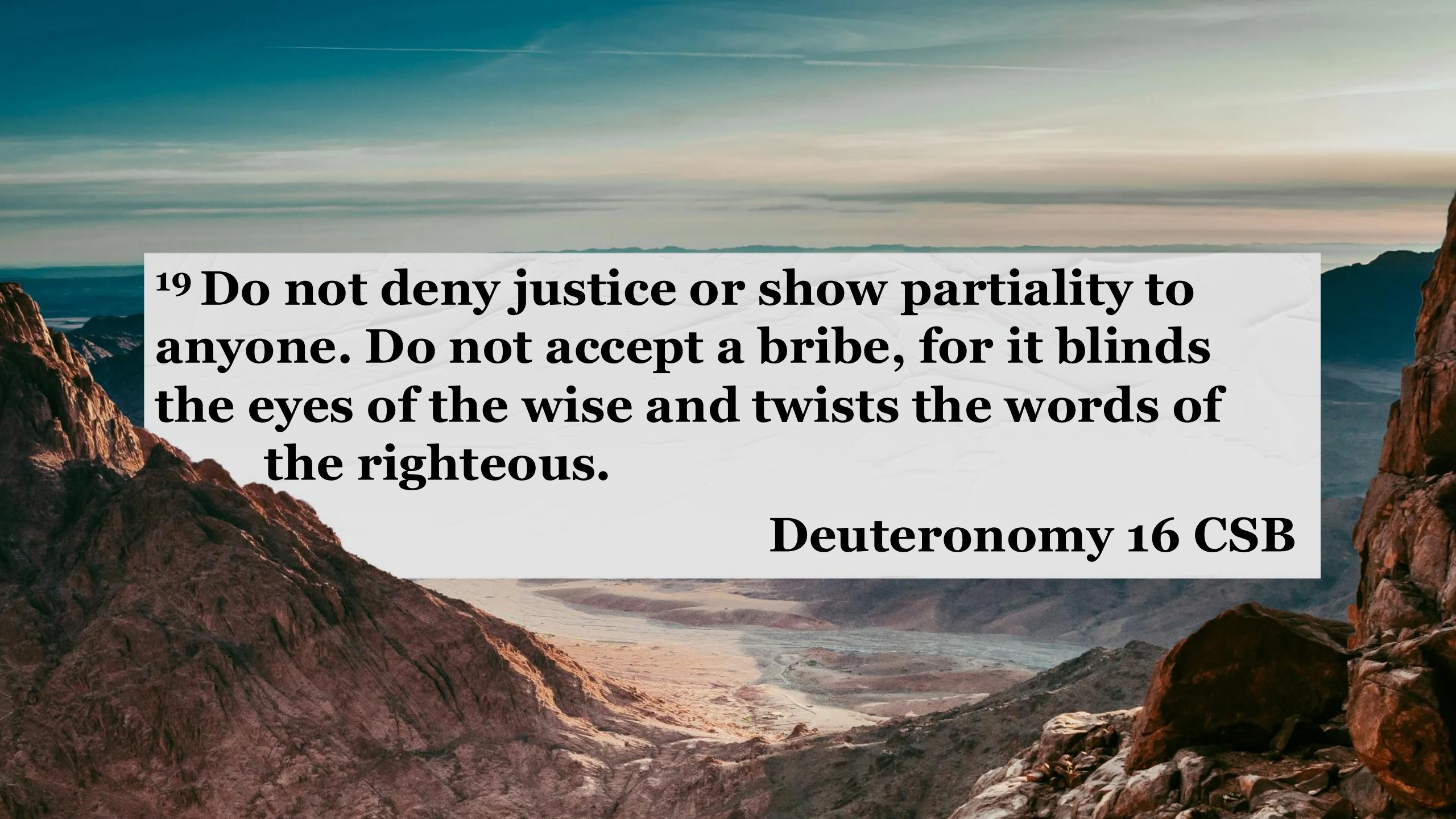
13 “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.”

Leviticus 19 ESV

Fraud is the crime of using trickery or deception for financial gain. Most frauds are all about money, whether the perpetrator has indirect or direct gain. Fraudsters use websites, e-mails, or often phone calls to trick their victims. Insider trading, identity theft, & Ponzi schemes are versions of fraud.
– Chris Drew, "Types of White-Collar Crime"



courtesy The Helpful Professor

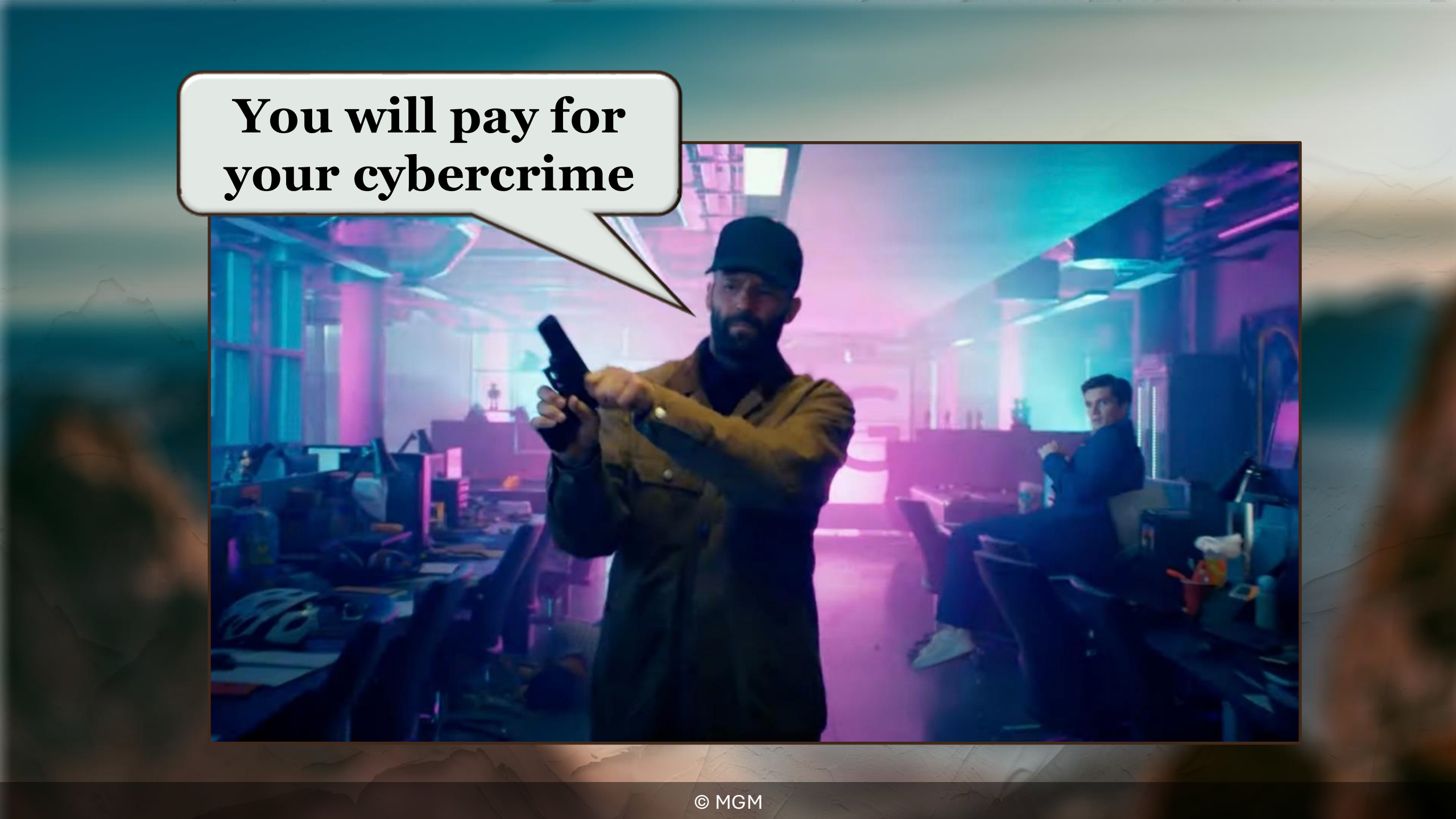


19 Do not deny justice or show partiality to anyone. Do not accept a bribe, for it blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 16 CSB



courtesy belenlaw



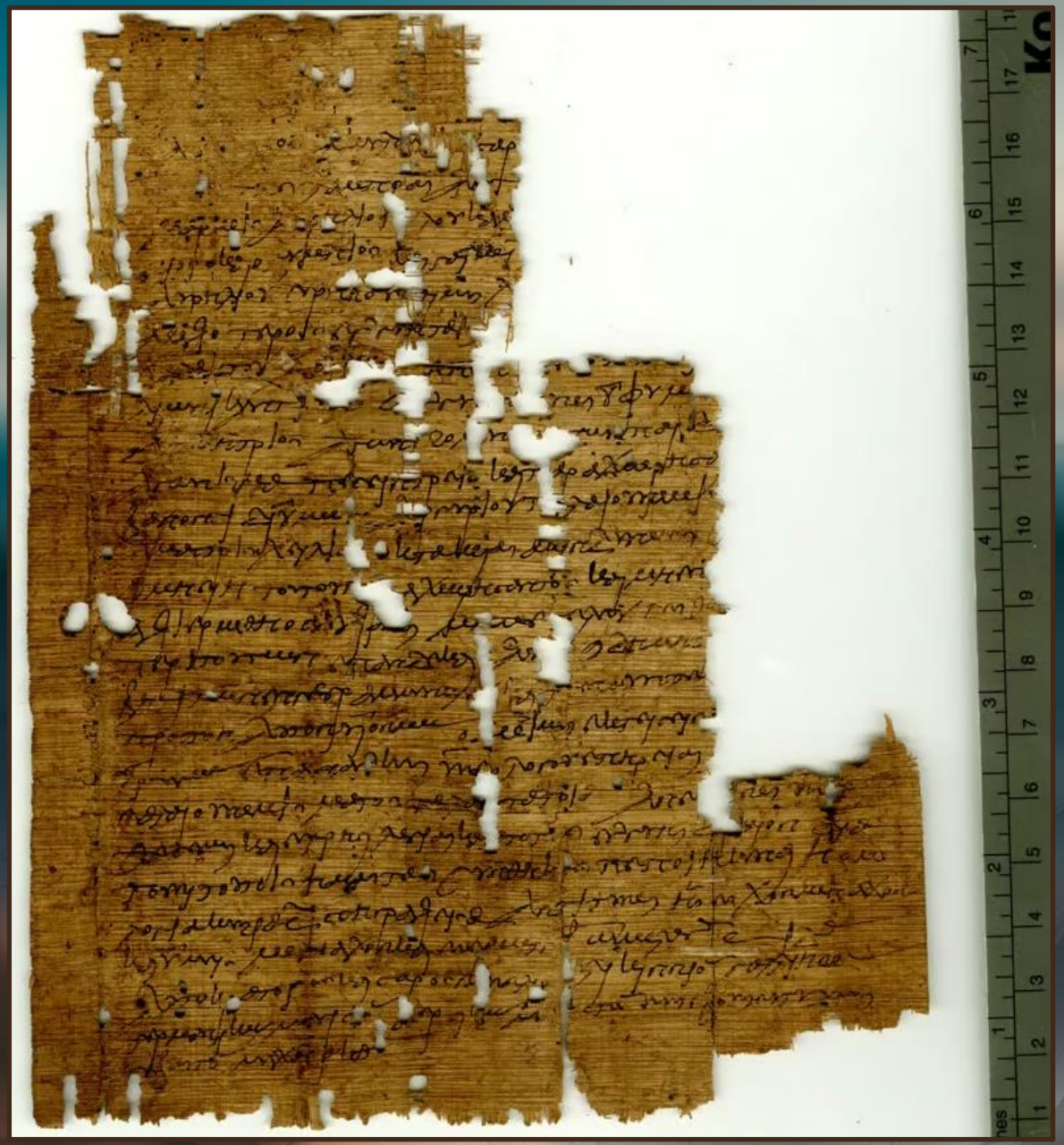
© MGM


COPYRIGHT
INFRINGEMENT?
BlogBrandz.com

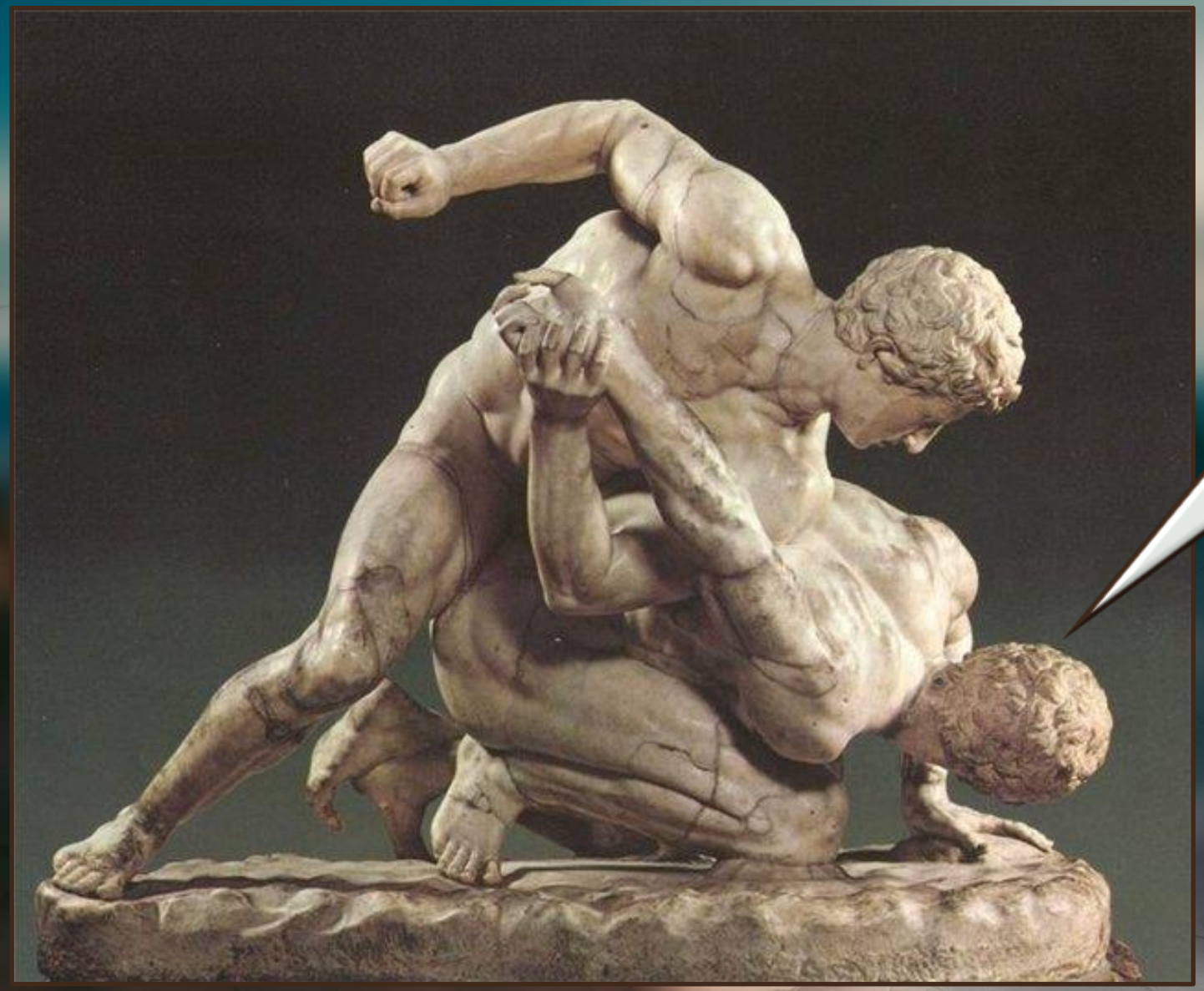


Copyright trolling, sometimes referred to as “speculative invoicing” or “speculative litigation” is a practice through which a rightsholder threatens numerous alleged infringers, seeking quick settlements or quick judgments in their favor.
– Jonathan Bailey, *Plagiarism Today*

courtesy copycatlegal



courtesy Biblical Archeology Review/Kings College



So what? A little larceny doesn't hurt anyone!

courtesy National Museum Athens



courtesy NBC Washington

I have:

___ Fudged on taxes.
___ Done less than my best work.
___ Padded an expense account.
___ Shoplifted.
___ Mistreated an employee.
___ Overkept a loaned book instead of promptly returning it.
___ Enjoyed a meal out on the company card when there was no need for the meeting to include a meal.



courtesy Steve Spangler



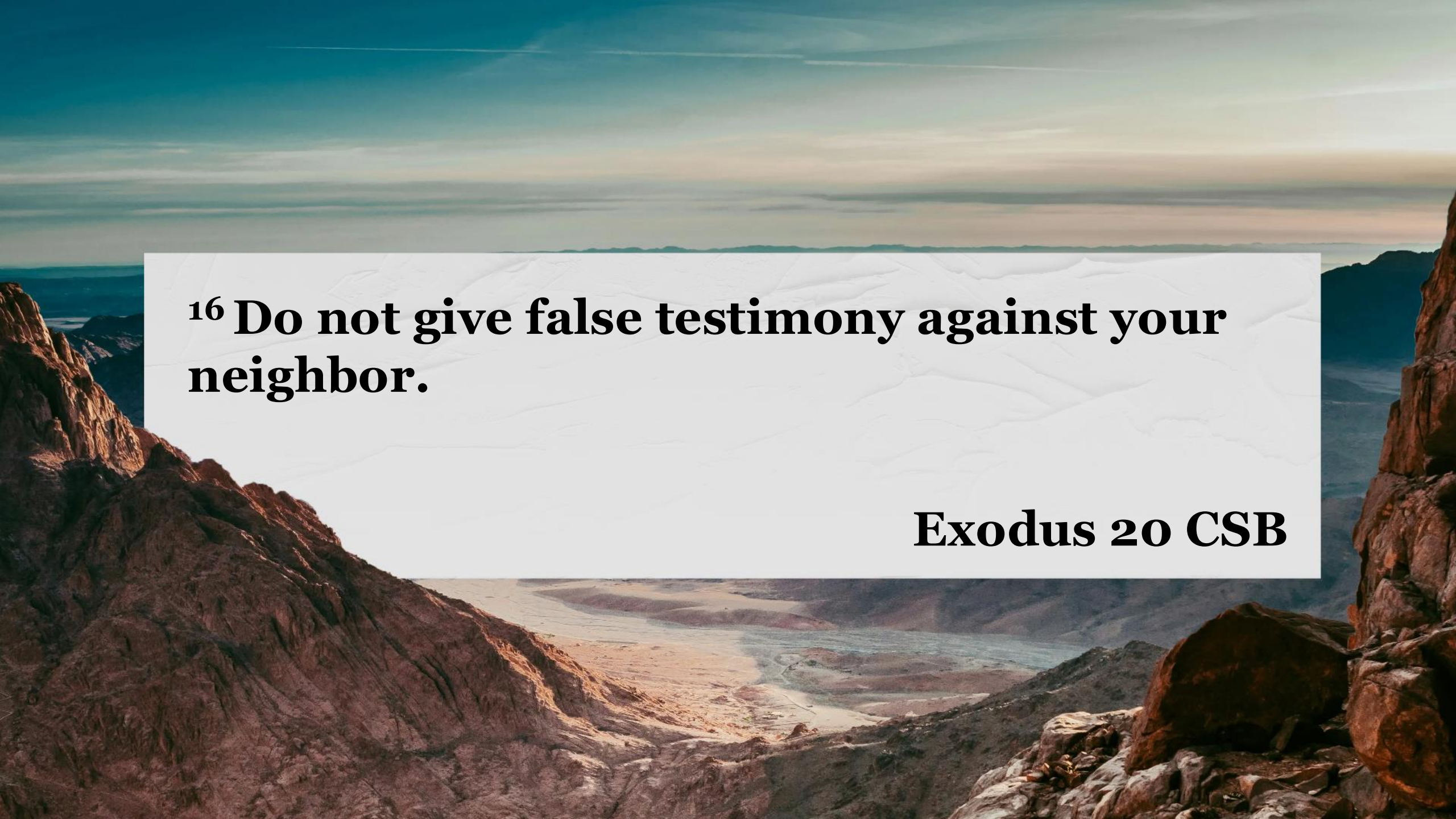
That seems like a prank you would pull. Was Craig in that alone?

courtesy knightcrier



Liar. You stole from your friend and your whole community. For what it's worth, that prank was harmless and funny. But that isn't the point. By saying nothing, you bore false witness, son.

courtesy knightcrier



16 Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Exodus 20 CSB

16 Do not give <u>false</u> testimony against your neighbor.

Hebrew: sheqer שֶׁקֶר = false way

sheqer **defines a way of life that goes contrary to the law of God. The psalmist, desirous of following God, prayed: "Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me" (Ps. 119:29–30). Here we see the opposites: "falsehood" and "faithfulness." As "faithfulness" is a relational term, "falsehood" denotes "one's inability to keep faith" with what one has said or to respond positively to the faithfulness of another being. – Merrill Unger,** ***Nelson's Expository Dictionary of OT Words,*** **vol. 1 p. 77**



courtesy Universal

16 Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Hebrew: sheqer שֶׁקֶר = false way

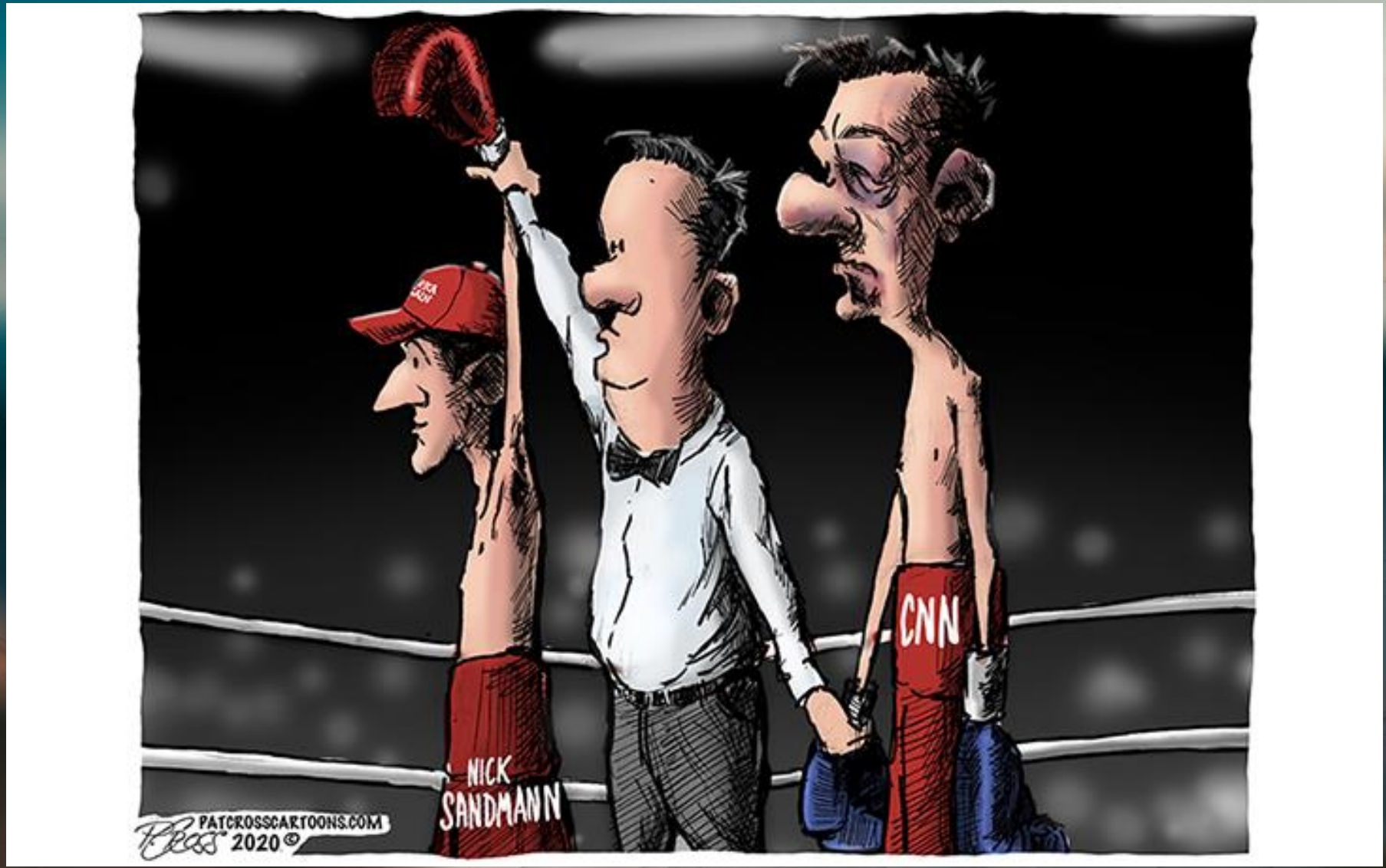
sheqer **defines a way of life that goes contrary to the law of God. The psalmist, desirous of following God, prayed: "Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me" (Ps. 119:29–30). Here we see the opposites: "falsehood" and "faithfulness." As "faithfulness" is a relational term, "falsehood" denotes "one's inability to keep faith" with what one has said or to respond positively to the faithfulness of another being. – Merrill Unger,** ***Nelson's Expository Dictionary of OT Words,*** **vol. 1 p. 77**

What causes people to lie?

- **Desire to be respected.**
- **Fear.**
- **Embarrassment at not knowing/not fitting in.**
- **To get what I want.**
- **To keep from hurting feelings (actually, to keep from having to deal with the aftereffects of someone's hurt feelings. It's not really compassion toward them. It's for me.)**
- **Jealousy.**
- **Craving for attention.**



courtesy NY Post


NICK
SANDMANN
CNN
PATCROSSCARTOONS.COM
2020

Lack of honesty is devastating to relationships.



© Disney

Dishonesty and theft don't just hurt individuals; they can also erode societal trust and economic stability…Recognizing the harm caused by dishonesty and theft is a crucial step towards personal accountability. When we engage in deceitful behavior, it not only damages our relationships with others but also erodes our self-trust and integrity…Individual actions have a ripple effect on those around us. Recognize that every decision you make contributes to the fabric of society. The choices we make, whether honest or dishonest, impact not only ourselves but also our loved ones, community, and world at large. – Michael Bennett, "Consequences of Lying and Stealing on Individuals & Society" on *The Parenting Pro*, April 24, 2025



courtesy Michael Bennett

25 Therefore, [because of God's sanctifying work in Christians' lives] putting away lying, *speak the truth, each one to his neighbor [Zech 8],* because we are members of one another. 26 *Be angry and do not sin [Ps 4].* Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the devil an opportunity. 28 Let the thief no longer steal. Instead, he is to do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. 29 No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.

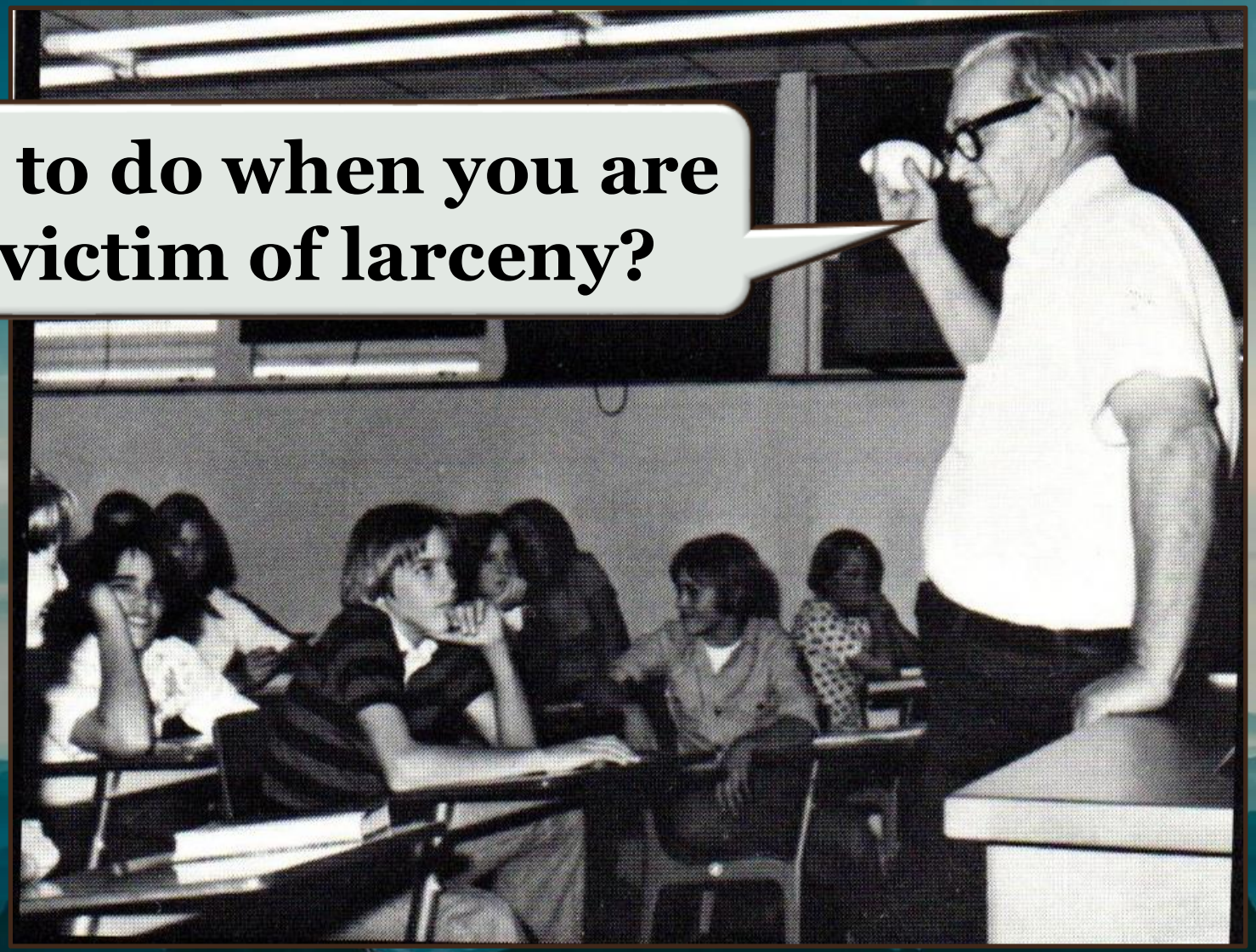
Ephesians 4 CSB

25 Therefore, [because of God's sanctifying work in Christians' lives] putting away lying, *speak the truth, each one to his neighbor [Zech 8],* because we are members of one another. 26 *Be angry and do not sin [Ps 4].* Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the devil an opportunity. 28 Let the thief no longer steal. Instead, he is to do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. 29 No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4 CSB

In which of these areas am I at least somewhat likely to show a lack of integrity in words? Check all that apply:

____Dishonest interactions. [“I’m fine!”]
____Exalting own accomplishments/minimizing responsibility.
____Blaming others.
____Holding on to anger/self-righteousness.
____Sinning with angry words.
____Selfish/parsimonious with words.
____Cursing.
____Speaking ungraciously.



courtesy PC Schools

33 “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

John 16 CSB

[John 16:33] is our welcome to the complexities of trying to be Christ-like, keeping God's 8th & 9th words while living among sinners, liars, cheats, and swindlers. Rising above it all requires not only a lot of courage to check your own behavior, but also requires sacrifice – because society, the press and even the government will often exact a price for your goodness. – Robert Frantz (who was Mr. Dowdy's favorite)



courtesy franklingray

**28 A contrary person spreads conflict,
and a gossip separates close friends.**

Proverbs 16 CSB

**1 One who isolates himself pursues selfish desires;
he rebels against all sound wisdom.**

Proverbs 18 CSB

13 The one who conceals his sins
will not prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them
will find mercy.

Proverbs 28 CSB

23 Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my concerns.
24 See if there is any offensive way in me;
lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 139 CSB





courtesy Bettman; paulickreport

1 The Lord spoke to Moses: 2 “When someone sins and offends the Lord by deceiving his neighbor in regard to a deposit, a security, or a robbery; or defrauds his neighbor; 3 or finds something lost and lies about it; or swears falsely about any of the sinful things a person may do—4 once he has sinned and acknowledged his guilt—he must return what he stole or defrauded, or the deposit entrusted to him, or the lost item he found,

5 or anything else about which he swore falsely. He will make full restitution for it and add a fifth of its value to it. He is to pay it to its owner on the day he acknowledges his guilt. 6 Then he is to bring his guilt offering to the Lord: an unblemished ram from the flock according to your assessment of its value as a guilt offering to the priest. 7 In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf before the Lord, and he will be forgiven for anything he may have done to incur guilt.”

Leviticus 6 CSB



courtesy visiblechild

Make things right with my child. Then you can work things out with me.



courtesy istock

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1 NLT

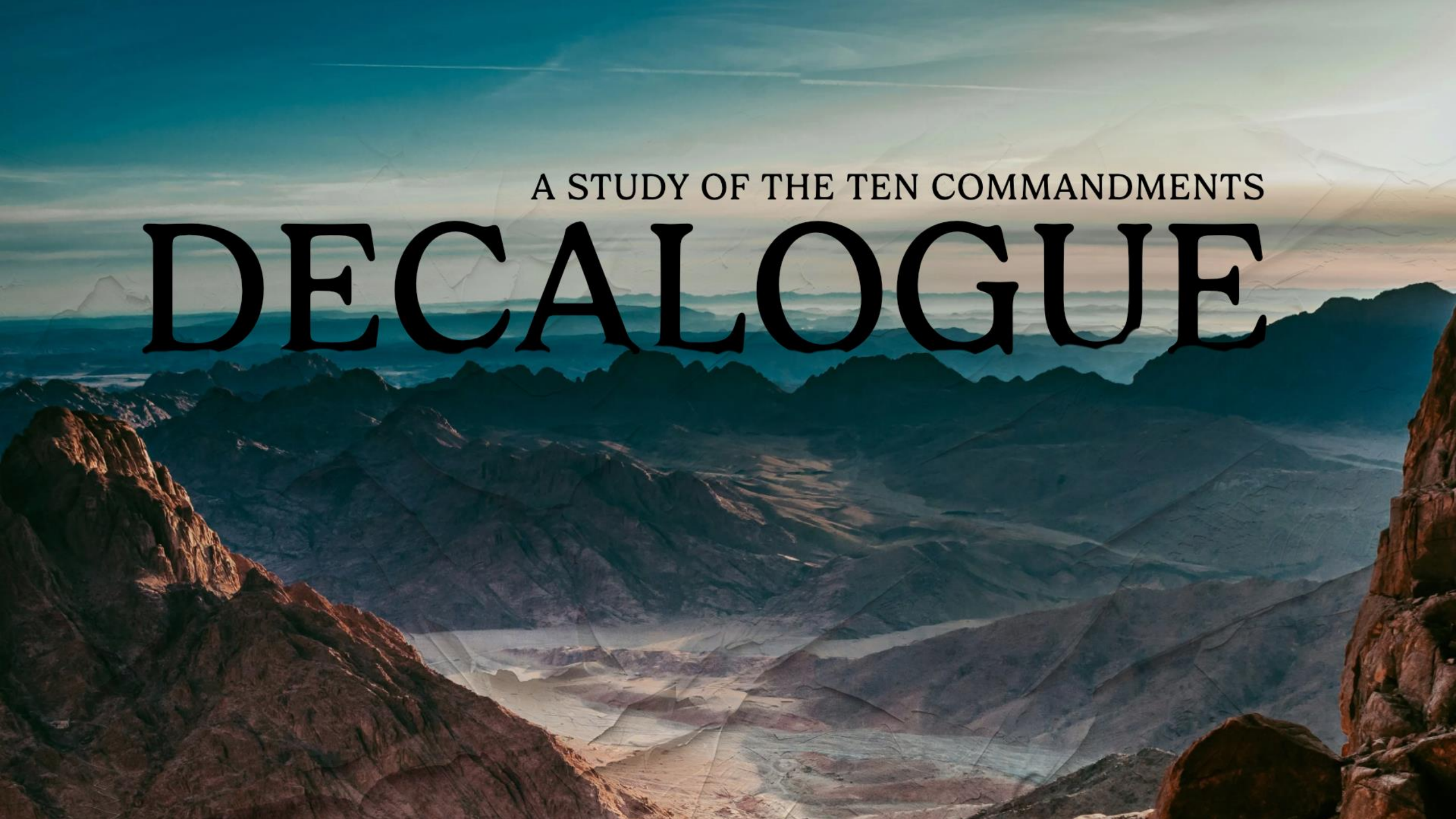


© David Edmonds

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1 NLT

When you've hurt someone through lying or stealing, the feelings of shame and guilt can be overwhelming. It's not just about making amends, but also about finding a way to forgive yourself and rebuild trust with others. Forgiveness is a process that takes time, patience, and effort. This involves acknowledging your mistakes, taking responsibility for them, and accepting that you've caused harm. Practice self-compassion by treating yourself with kindness and empathy, just as you would a friend in a similar situation. – Michael Bennett, "Consequences of Lying and Stealing on Individuals & Society" on The Parenting Pro, April 24, 2025


A STUDY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
DECALOGUE