

In the past weeks we have cover 8 of the 10 commandments:

## The 10 Commandments

### TOWARD GOD

1. No other gods
2. No graven images
3. Name of the Lord not to be taken in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy

### TOWARD MAN

5. Honour thy father and mother
6. Thou shalt not kill
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery
8. Thou shalt not steal
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness
10. Thou shalt not covet

Today I want to talk about Commandments 8-9.

Thou shall not steal, and thou shall not bear false witness.

I know that a lot of people have stated that the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment is thou shall not lie but that is not what is being commanded.

There are times when lying is necessary.  
Especially in the preservance of life.

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Thou Shall not Bear False witness and Thou shall not Steal are connected.

Definition of bearing false witness:

Stating something you saw, heard, or experienced, that you truly did not see or hear or experience.

The reason people bear false witness is to take something or get something from someone that they do not deserve or earn.

“I caught a fish this big.”

What am I trying to get from you that is not rightfully mine?

Reputation, respect, and admiration.

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Another reason people bear false witness is to make them look good while making someone else look bad.

Usually, people who bear false witnesses are people who act as victims or are self-righteous.

They guise what they know or their story with exaggeration and falsehoods.

When asked to present these facts openly they have some excuses for why they do not want to or why you should keep it a secret.

Avoid such devils.

If you present the same story to the other party, they will present witnesses and have no problem openly confronting the lie. These are the people of the truth.

If you are a person who hears a story, you should investigate and confront people.

Someone is trying to steal something that does not belong to them or take something from someone who has earned it.

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**I want to present two stories to you and how these stories connect bearing false witness and stealing.**

**1 Kings 21:1-19**

(1) And it came to pass after these things that **Naboth the Jezreelite** had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

(2) So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "**Give me your vineyard**, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money."

(3) But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

(4) So **Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him**; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

(5) **But Jezebel his wife came to him**, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?"

(6) He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.' "

(7) Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

(8) **And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles** who were dwelling in the city with Naboth.

(9) She wrote in the letters, saying, **Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor** among the people;

(10) **and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, You have blasphemed God and the king. Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.**

(11) So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them.

(12) They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people.

(13) And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and **the scoundrels witnessed against him**, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died.

(14) Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

(15) And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "**Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead.**"

(16) So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

**(17) Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,**

.....(19) You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "**Have you murdered and**

**also taken possession?"' .... 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours." ' "**

**1 Kings 21:23 And concerning Jezebel,....'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'**

### **Acts 5:1-11 – Ananias and Sapphira**

#### **Intro...**

Acts 4:34-35 .... for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, (35) and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

Acts 5

(1) But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

(2) **And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it,**

**and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.**

(3) But Peter said, "**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?**

(4) While it remained, **was it not your own?** And after it was sold, **was it not in your own control?** Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God."**

(5) Then Ananias, hearing these words, **fell down and breathed his last.** So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

.....(7) Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, **not knowing** what had happened.

(8) And Peter answered her, "**Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?**" She said, "Yes, for so much."

(9) Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

(10) Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.

(11) So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

They dropped dead **not** because they did not give all but because **they said they gave all**, (BEAR FALSE WITNESS) so that they can get recognition. (STEAL SOMETHING THAT WAS NOT THEIRS).

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## **How to avoid bearing false witness**

### **1) Fear God**

**2 Corinthians 5:10** — “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

The fear of God restrains careless and dishonest speech.

## **2) Watch What You Say**

**James 1:19** — “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

False witness often comes through:

- Anger
- Haste
- Emotional reaction

Slowing down protects us from speaking before we know the full truth.

## **3) Speak the Truth in Love**

**Ephesians 4:15** — “Speaking the truth in love...”

**Ephesians 4:25** — “Putting away lying, ‘LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR,’ for we are members of one another.”

Truthfulness is not optional for believers. But truth must be spoken with love and for the purpose of building up, not tearing down.

## **4) Remove Pride**

**Romans 12:3** — “Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly...”

Pride drives much false witness. We may lie:

- To protect our image
- To win an argument
- To make someone else look worse

## **5) Esteem Others Above Yourself**

**Philippians 2:3–4** — “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

When we genuinely value others, we will not:

- Twist their words
- Exaggerate their faults
- Spread harmful reports

A humble, Christlike mindset guards the tongue.

In conclusion,

Stealing is taking something that you do not deserve or something that belongs to someone else.

Bearing false witness is the vehicle that is so commonly used to accomplish that.

Thou shalt not steal and so thou will not bear false witness.