

JESUS IS NOT A THIEF

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In His parable of the good shepherd, Jesus spoke of the thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Without question Jesus is not speaking of Himself for Jesus came to give not take; He came to give us life, not to take life from us; and He came to restore and make new, not to destroy.

Jesus is not a thief.

A thief takes what doesn't belong to him. All things belong to Christ. "God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him." (John 1:3 (NLT)) A thief takes without permission. Christ will never force or coerce us into giving Him anything. He says, "Whosoever will." A thief is a liar and a scoundrel. Jesus is pure, just, and holy.

Like our heavenly Father, Jesus is the greatest giver.

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I came that they may have life and have *it* abundantly."

The (NLT) quotes Jesus saying, "My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

Our Blindness.

We are blinded to the goodness of God because of our nature. In our natural understanding it's hard to perceive the pure nature of Christ because it is our nature to be so self-centered.

The bible describes man's nature in Ephesians 2:3 by saying that man lives to gratify the cravings of his flesh; he follows after the desires of his own heart, and he's guided by his selfish thoughts. Because of his sinful nature, he is deserving of wrath.

But God so loved us that He gave us His Son by appointing Him to suffer the wrath of sin for us. If God has done so, will He not freely give us all things?

What Jesus does want to take away is our sin.

- Sin separates us from God.
- Sin works destructiveness and brings pain into our life.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (Jabez prayed to God) "Bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!"
NKJV - "That You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!"

Satan is a thief! Sin takes away; sin kills, and sin destroys!

The enemy uses the flesh against us, and he appeals to our selfish nature.

James 1:14–15 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

- Satan steals the identity of the one who loses their self in pursuit of being like the world.
 - The imitator; the transgender; the homosexual.
- Pornography – Steals one's self control; takes away the capacity of gratification under the vice of an unquenchable fire of lust; it leads a life into a dissension of filthiness and shame.
- Alcohol (drugs) leads to foolishness; abusiveness; lawbreaking; broken homes; ruined lives.
- The sin of covetousness which consumes all of one's time and energy away from all that's truly valuable. It pierces people with many sorrows.

Jesus wants to take from us anything that keeps us from the life which God desires to give us.

"Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" - Hebrews 12.

Jesus is not a thief. His purpose is to give you a rich and satisfying life which comes from God.

- He wants to reconcile you with God!
- He wants to give you freedom from sin's power over you!
- He wants to give you His righteousness, peace, and joy!
- He wants you to experience a full life now and eternal life in your future!
 - Eternal life is the experience of eternal redemption from all sin (new heaven; new earth; new body)

Jesus is not a thief! You must repent of your own free-will.

- You must willingly turn from your sin and turn to God.
- You must willingly surrender the life you have now to Him and accept from Him the life He wants to give you.
- You must accept God's love for you and seek His will for your life.