



Clearwater Community Church

THE THREAD

Weaving Sunday's message through your week

Date: April 8, 2018

Theme: Do Not Steal

Passage: Exodus 20:15

OT Understanding of *Stealing*:

Kidnapping (21:16)

Theft of property (22:1–9)

Any form of dishonest gain (Deut. 25:16)

Mistreatment of those in need (Ezek. 18:7)

Principles that must be kept in mind:

Stealing degrades God's gift of work to humanity (Gen. 1:28–29; 2:15–16).

Stealing includes the amassing and hoarding of stuff when poverty is ever-present (Isa. 3:16–26; James 5:1–6).

God expects his people to love their neighbor by treating them and their possessions with respect (Exod. 23:4–5).

Our possessions belong to us by the grace of God, not by our own right or merit (Deut. 8:18).

Main Idea: God's holy people must treat others and their possessions with the dignity that God has bestowed on them.

Discussion Questions:

What practical applications can we draw from the commands and laws given in Exodus 22:1–15?

How do the mandates that God gave to humanity at creation (Gen. 1:28–29; 2:15–16) inform our understanding of work and possessions?

What picture is painted by the following OT passages: Isaiah 3:16–26; Amos 8:4–6; Micah 3:1–3)?

What should change in our lives based on James 5:1–6?

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