



"Stop! Thief!"

Pastor Jason West | September 3, 2023

Shiloh Community Church

Exodus 20:15 "You shall not steal."

Proverbs 30:8-11 "Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God. Do not slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be held guilty. There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers."

I. The Crime

A. Stealing From _____

1. Shoplifting
2. Flash Mobs
3. Train Heists
4. Porch Pirates
5. Corporate Dishonesty (Amos 8:5b)
6. Stealing Time
7. Intellectual Property
8. Reputations Stolen Through Gossip
9. Withholding Help From Others (Proverbs 3:27-28)
10. Stealing From Parents (Proverbs 28:24)
11. Not Paying Back Debts (Romans 13:8)

B. Stealing from God

1. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:6)
2. Taking God's _____ (Acts 12:21-23)
3. Not Tithing/Giving to God (Malachi 3:8)
4. Jesus' Response (Luke 19:45-46)

II. Understanding the Law and Grace

A. God's Law Starts With _____
(Exodus 20:1-2)

B. God Gives _____
(Exodus 22:1)

C. God's Law Gives the Right to Private Property

D. God Wants Us to _____ in Him

E. God Warns Us of _____ Influence

• Judas was a Thief (John 12:6; John 13:27)

III. It's Time For a Change

A. The Change of a New Heart

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."

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."

B. The Change in Our Worldview About _____

Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men"

C. A Change in What We Trust in for _____

1 Timothy 6:17 "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy."

D. A Change in Being _____
(Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11-13)

E. A Change in How We _____
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 19:8-10)

• Zacchaeus' Example

IV. God's _____ to Us
(Galatians 2:20; 3:13; Matthew 27:38)



September 3, 2023

1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage

- a. Read Exodus 20:1-26
- b. Read and study the context around the law
- c. Read and study the story/narrative around the law

2. Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

a. Interpreting the Old Testament Law: The Bible is divided into two different kinds of laws, apodictic (absolute principles that should always be followed) and casuistic (specific circumstances that explain a scenario and a the proper punishment).¹ The Ten Commandments function as apodictic, since they are laws that were to be forever followed for the Israelite people under the Mosaic Covenant. "You shall not steal" is an example of this. An example of a casuistic law in relation to this law is, "Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the LORD alone, shall be devoted to destruction," (Exodus 22:20). This is important to understand because the New Testament reaffirms most of the apodictic laws in the New Covenant, but it does not reaffirm casuistic laws because they were situational for a particular time period.

This means that the Ten Commandments generally follow a timeless principle that can cross over to other cultures and time periods. They are not time-specific, but transcend time, because they affirm the holy character of God's nature. One of many essential steps in applying Old Testament Law is asking, "what does this law inform us about God's 'unchanging character, desires, values, concerns, and standards?'"² The more we know God's nature, the more we should want to worship Him³ for His holy nature according to the way he wants to be worshipped, namely in truthfulness and spirit (John 4:23). Praise God that he does not steal, rather he has worked and created things to show us His glory, intelligence, and creativity in creation. We should follow the same pattern of working with the skills, gifts, and talents God has given us (Ephesians 4:28).

3. Questions about the Passage

- a. According to this commandment, what constitutes stealing? What is God's heart behind this commandment? We have seen Jesus expand upon the commandments from previous weeks.
- b. Do you think there was some kind of intention on the part of God to place "you shall not steal" between the commandments adultery and bearing false witness?

c. Is there a connection between stealing and laziness (Consider 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; Eph 4:28)?

d. Stealing can be connected with stewardship. How might a lack of godly stewardship be considered stealing? (Connect it to the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30).

e. How is theft a violation of not loving one's neighbor (Leviticus 19:33-34; Philippians 2:3-4)?

4. From the Passage to Life

a. Are there any areas of your life where you might be stealing from God or others (Ex. Time, money, work, etc.) (Malachi 3:7-10)?

b. The opposite of stealing is generous giving. How can you be more intentional in being generous with the resources God has blessed you with?

c. What examples do you have of God's generosity to you in response to your generosity to him (Philippians 4:15-19)?

d. Is God leading you to give your resources to a need with a certain person or ministry in the church?

¹ Jason S. DeRouchie, How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology (New Jersey: P&R, 2017), 51.

² DeRouchie, How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament, 441. More steps can be found on pages 439-442.

³ DeRouchie, How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament, 441.