

WRITTEN WRITTEN IN STONE IN STONE

Trusting God's Provision | Written in Stone

Exodus 20:1-2, 13, James 5:4-5, Malachi 3:8-10, Proverbs 3:5-10, Philippians 4:19

What is the 8th commandment and WHY does it matter?

God has set us free so we can live free. That means loving God with all of our hearts, minds, and souls. Isn't that what Jesus said? That way we can love others as God created us to love them... "as ourselves." We dive deeper into the Ten Commandments to discover the power of trusting God's provision for our lives so we will be free from the need to steal... and even worry. As always, Jesus is the pathway to this reality being unlocked in our lives.

Exodus 20:1-2, 13: *Then God gave the people all these instructions: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. (Relational-personal God who has rescued us from slavery to FREEDOM) 15 "You must not steal.*

We must not steal. → Vertical → Horizontal → When we take something that does not belong to us. → Stealing is WRONG.

- The Israelites were slaves. They didn't own anything!
- How do we steal? → Stealing comes from a lack of value/respect/love towards others...
 1. **When we take from each other:** Shoplifting (100 bil), Pickpocketing, Car Theft, Burglary, Robbery, Porch theft, Online Scams, Plagiarism, Intellectual Property Theft, ID theft, Company theft (50 bil), Not working while you are on the clock: Social media, Linked, Socializing. → **James 5:4-5**
 2. **When we don't give to someone what they deserve:** Wage Theft, Discrimination, Benefit Fraud, Illegally, Withholding Inheritance, Tax Evasion, Consumer Fraud
 3. **When we cheat God:** When we don't give back to God what is HIS. → **Malachi 3:8-10** → **Psalms 24:1**
- Why do we steal? → We steal for all sorts of reasons: Ignorance → Greed → Desperation → Addiction → Covetousness → No respect → Seared conscience → Thrill seeking → worldly values → WE DON'T TRUST GOD'S PROVISION!

How do we trust God's provision? → Missionary Pledge → "I'll just steal from my mom." → **Turn to your neighbor...**

- 1. Rest and follow God's rhythm. → When you are rested... it is easier to trust God. → 4th Commandment
- 2. Reflect on how God has provided in the past. → When we first moved out to OC
- 3. Work hard and develop a faithful work ethic. → God provides us the ability to WORK. → **Eph. 4:28**
- 4. Pray and ask the Lord to provide for you and your family. → Ask God for help! → TLPrayer: **Mt. 6:9-13**
- 5. TITHE by giving God what belongs to Him and give offerings. → Give to God what is God's. → **Proverbs 3:5-10**
- 6. Budget & live below means = margin! → "If you don't tell your money where to go... you'll wonder where it went."
- 7. Learn from your financial mistakes so you can grow in wisdom. → "I prob shouldn't have taken out that car loan..."

Jesus is the ultimate provision for our lives. → **Failing to trust God for PROVISION... STEALING from US.**

- **Philippians 4:19:** *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.* → Not trusting God is robbing OURSELVES. → **We rob from ourselves!**
- **RICHERS:** Jesus is Savior, Lord, Mediator, Teacher, Example, Shepherd, High Priest, King, Prince of Peace....
- Trust is the key to unlock our riches in Christ. → If we have Jesus... we have all we need in this life.
- Look at the birds. → Look at the lilies. → **Matthew 6:25-34** - TRUST GOD'S PROVISION!

→ **When we trust God's provision, we have no reason to steal... or worry!**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Have I ever had something stolen from me? How did it make me feel?
2. In what ways have you personally struggled with the concept of stealing, either in actions or attitudes?
3. Can you think of any situations in your life where you may have cheated God? How can this change?
4. Which application mentioned can grow in trusting God's provision and begin to do THIS WEEK?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to trust your provision!"

TEACHING NUGGETS:

Why commandments? What is the purpose of the Law?

1. **Revealing God's Holiness:** Exodus 20:7-8 (NLT) - "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
2. **Establishing God's Covenant:** Exodus 34:28 (NLT) - "Moses remained there on the mountain with the Lord forty days and forty nights. In all that time, he ate no bread and drank no water. And the Lord wrote the terms of the covenant—the Ten Commandments—on the stone tablets."
3. **Guiding Moral and Ethical Behavior:** Exodus 20:12 (NLT) - "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you."
4. **Maintaining Social Order:** Exodus 21:23-25 (NLT) - "But if there is further injury, the punishment must match the injury: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot."
5. **Revealing God's Will:** Psalm 119:105 (NLT) - "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."
6. **Teaching Love and Compassion:** Leviticus 19:18 (NLT) - "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."
7. **Revealing Humanity's Sinfulness:** Romans 3:20 (NLT) - "For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are."
8. **Pointing to Christ:** Galatians 3:24 (NLT) - "Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith."

The "Riches" of Jesus' Roles in our Lives:

1. **Savior:** Ephesians 2:8-9 - "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."
2. **Lord:** Romans 10:9 - "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
3. **Mediator:** 1 Timothy 2:5 - "For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus."
4. **Teacher:** Matthew 5:1-12 (The Sermon on the Mount contains many of Jesus' teachings and moral guidance).
5. **Example:** 1 Peter 2:21 - "For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps."
6. **Shepherd:** John 10:11 - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep."
7. **Friend:** John 15:15 - "I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me."
8. **High Priest:** Hebrews 4:14-16 - "So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe."
9. **King:** Revelation 19:16 - "On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords."
10. **Prince of Peace:** Isaiah 9:6 - "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

VIDEOS:



QUOTES / SONGS:

- "Approximately **43% of the Bible is made up of narrative**, from historical narrative to parables. Roughly **33% of the Bible is poetry**, including songs, reflective poetry, and the passionate, politically resistant poetry of the prophets. The remaining **24% of the Bible is prose discourse**, including laws, sermons, letters, and even one essay." - **Pible Project**
- **DAD JOKE:** "Why did the burglar take a shower before robbing the house? He wanted to make a clean 'getaway!'"
- **DAD JOKE:** "Why did the scarecrow become a master thief? Because he was outstanding in his field!"
- **DAD JOKE:** "I thought about stealing a bakery but decided it wasn't my 'bread and butter.'"
- "Having given five exhortations to honor God and elders, the Ten Words now turn their attention to the business of honoring one another as fellow image bearers. We progress from discussion of how we relate to our heavenly Parent, to our earthly parents (human authorities), to our brothers and sisters (our neighbors). Essentially, the last five words will speak to the proper treatment of siblings. (89–90)" - **Jenn Wilkin**

ARTICLES / BOOKS:

- **“Ten Words to Live By: Delighting in and Doing What God Commands”**: by Jen Wilkin

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **Psalm 1:1** - *Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.*
 - **Psalm 1:2** - *But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.*
 - **Psalm 1:3** - *3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.*
 - **Galatians 5:1** - *So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.*
 - **John 10:10** - *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*
 - **John 14:15** - *"If you love me, obey my commandments.*
 - **Mark 12:29-31** - *29 Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. 30 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."*
 - **Matthew 5:17** - *"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.*
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- **Genesis 1:26-27** - *26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*
 - **James 5:4-5** - *"4 For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies. 5 You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter."*
 - **Malachi 3:8-10** - *"8 Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' 'You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. 9 You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,' says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!'"*
 - **Psalm 24:1** - *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him."*
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- **Ephesians 4:28** - *"28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need."*
 - **Matthew 6:9-13** - *"9 Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. 10 May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today the food we need, 12 and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. 13 And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."*
 - **Proverbs 3:5-10** - *"5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. 7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. 8 Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. 10 Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine."*
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- **Philippians 4:19** - *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*
 - **Matthew 6:25-34** - *25 "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?
26 **Look at the birds.** They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?"*

- 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?
- 28 "And why worry about your clothing? **Look at the lilies** of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing,
- 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.
- 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?
- 31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'
- 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.
- **33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.**
- 34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

- **Exodus 20:1-17** - Then God gave the people all these instructions:

2 "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

3 "You must not have any other god but me.

4 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.

5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. 6 But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

7 "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

8 "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 You have six days each week for your ordinary work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

13 "You must not murder.

14 "You must not commit adultery.

15 "You must not steal.

16 "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

17 "You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

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