



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **Hands Off: The Freedom of Honest Living**
Series: **God's Top 10**
Text: **Exodus 20:14; Ephesian 4:28**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **August 24, 2025**

How to Honor Commandment #8?

1. _____ GOD'S PROVISION

"You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15)

Stealing undermines TRUST, corrodes DIGNITY, and shows a lack of FAITH in God's provision.

*"And my **God will meet all your needs** according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)*

The Hebrew word for _____ (ganaf) literally means **to carry something away, as if by stealth**. To give a more technical definition, to steal is to **appropriate someone else's property unlawfully**.

STEALING IS A SIN IN TWO WAYS.

1. Every theft is a _____ to trust God.
2. It robs what God has _____ for someone else.

2. _____ HONEST WORK

*"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, **but must work**, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need." (Ephesians 4:28)*

"Work is not just about a paycheck — it is worship. Honest work reflects God, the Creator, who worked to bring order out of chaos." Martin Luther

*For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "**If a man will not work, he shall not eat.**" We hear that some among you are idle. **They are not busy**; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to **settle down and earn the bread they eat.** (2Thes. 3:10-12)*

*Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and **to work with your hands**, just as we told you, so that your daily life **may win the respect of outsiders** and so that **you will not be dependent on anybody.** (1 Thes. 4:11-12)*

3. _____ GENEROSITY

*“Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, **but must work**, doing something useful with their own hands, **that they may have something to share with those in need.**” (Ephesians 4:28)*

*“A **generous man will himself be blessed**, for he shares his food with the poor.” (Prov. 22:9)*

*“**Will a man rob God?** Yet you rob me.
“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ (Mal 3:8).*

*“**In tithes and offerings**. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this**,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see **if I will not throw open the floodgates** of heaven and pour out **so much blessing** that you will not have room enough for it. (Mal 3:8–10).*

CONCLUSION:

_____ the Chief Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10)

*Jesus said to him, “**Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.**” (Luke 19:5)*



*Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and **if I have cheated anybody out of anything**, I will pay back **four times the amount.**” (Lk 19:8).*

*Jesus said to him, “**Today salvation has come to this house**, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.**”(Lk 19:9–10).*

So here’s the invitation: **let Christ come into your “house” today.** Let Him have that private conversation with your heart. Whether you’ve stolen things, time, trust, or even glory from God, He is ready to forgive, restore, and free you to live with open hands. Because when Jesus moves in, everything changes.