**Command 8 — Do Not Steal**

July 15, 2018

“You shall not steal.” Exodus 20:15 (ESV)

1. What does it mean to steal?

Gang - Take away anything that is not your property.

1. How do we steal?
2. Why is stealing wrong?
   1. Every theft is a failure to trust in God’s provision for my life.
   2. Every theft is taking away God’s provision from others for their life.
3. How do we steal on the job?
   1. Employers can steal from their workers.

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. James 5:4–5 (ESV)

* 1. Employees can steal from their boss.

Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. Titus 2:9–10 (ESV)

1. We steal from God when we don’t worship him with our wealth.

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. Malachi 3:8 (ESV)

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21 (ESV)

1. If I have stolen, I need to super-abundantly restore.

“If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. Exodus 22:1 (ESV)

1. Jesus is the only way to restore my debt to God.

…and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6:12 (ESV)

…“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Luke 23:42 (ESV)

…“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43 (ESV)

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

* 1. Have you been a victim of theft? Describe the situation and how you responded.
  2. What forms of stealing are considered “okay” by most Christians?
  3. Read Joshua 7:10-26. What thoughts led to Achan stealing? Since Achan could not have worn the clothing or used the money without anyone knowing, would you consider stealing ultimately irrational? What does this teach you about the long-term influence of stealing upon someone’s heart?
  4. What were the consequences of Achan’s sin? Do his consequences seem too severe? Why or why not?
  5. What principles about stealing can we learn from this piece of history to apply to our life?