



No Stealing

10th in the “10 Commandments” Series

Exodus 20:15 & Matthew 6:19-24

March 20, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage we learn about the eighth of the Ten Commandments.

The Text:

Exodus 20:15

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.”

Matthew 6:19-24

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

1. The eighth commandment forbids stealing from or manipulating others for material or financial gain.

Heidelberg Catechism 110:

Q: What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

A: God forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law. But in God’s sight theft also includes all scheming and swindling in order to get our neighbor’s goods for ourselves, whether by force or means that appear legitimate, such as inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume; fraudulent merchandising; counterfeit money; excessive interest; or any other means forbidden by God. In addition, God forbids all greed and pointless squandering of his gifts.

2. The eighth commandment demands that Christians set their hearts on true treasures.

Heidelberg Catechism 111:

Q: What does God require of you in [the eighth] commandment?

A: That I do whatever I can for my neighbor’s good, that I treat others as I would like them to treat me, and that I work faithfully so that I may share with those in need.

3. The eighth commandment shepherds us to see how Christ is our inheritance, with the Spirit as a down payment, and true wealth is found in heavenly treasures.

APP: What does obeying the eighth commandment look like?

The Stealing and Stewardship Tests:

- (1) The Consumerism Test – Is my life dominated and manipulated by money or possessions?
- (2) The Debt Test – Is my desire for material things owning me?
- (3) The Generosity Test – Am I stealing from people connected to me who are in need?
- (4) The God Test – Am I stealing from God (see Malachi 3:8)?

Response

Lord, help us to lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven, and desire God over all the pleasures of this world.

Sunday Text Questions for Ten Commandments Series

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- 1) Starter Question: How can a person tell if they are “materialistic” (def: “excessively concerned with material possessions; money-oriented”)?
- 2) Read Exodus 20:15 and Mathew 6:19-24 aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How does Jesus apply the 8th commandment to the Christian in Matthew 6:19-24?
- 4) Based upon Jesus’ deepening of the 8th commandment, when is a person guilty of “stealing”?
- 5) What are the challenges Christians will face as they try to honor the 8th commandment in a highly consumeristic, materialistic culture?
- 6) Is it fair to say that Christians speak strongly against sexual sin and yet minimize or avoid materialistic sins, and if so, why?
- 7) What does the 8th commandment expect from a Christian who in comparison to the rest of the world, or even as a middle-class American, is wealthy?
- 8) How can a person know if they are controlled or manipulated by possessions and money, and what would a proper Christian response to this addiction look like?
- 9) How can a person know if they are stealing from God (see Malachi 3) in regard to giving to Kingdom work through the church and generosity to Christian brothers and sisters, and what would a proper Christian response to this theft look like?

Further study this week: Passages related to the 8th commandment: Malachi 3:6-12 (Mon); Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 (Tues); Romans 13:8-10 (Wed); Hebrews 13:5 (Thurs); 1 Timothy 6:7-10 (Fri).