

THE TEN(DER) COMMANDMENTS

Part 8: “Beg, Borrow, But Don’t Steal.”

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Notes:

God loves to provide for us (see 2 Corinthians 9:10). Stealing takes what God has provided for someone else and tries to commandeer it for oneself. Therefore, stealing distrusts God’s provision. Theft, of course, is not just a crime of the poor. As the story of Zacchaeus demonstrates, even the rich can fall prey to distrusting God’s provision. The remedy for theft is both faith in God and generosity toward others. Do we live our lives in this way?

“You shall not steal.” – Exodus 20:15

“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

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “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.” – Luke 19:8

My Next Step(s):

- I will not steal my neighbor’s things, but help him or her to improve and protect their possessions and income.
- I will reflect on the subtle ways in which I steal from others.
- I will not justify my petty theft because the government or corporation can “afford it.”
- Rather than steal, I will sow a lifestyle of integrity and generosity.
- I will not rob or steal from God by withholding my offerings. (see Malachi 3:8)

Memory Verse: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” – John 10:10

(continues on back)

(This message uses materials provided by The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)

The { **TEN(DER)
COMMANDMENTS**

"Beg, Borrow, But Don't Steal"

“You shall not steal.”

Exodus 20:15

You shall not steal**

- **Unless from the government.**
- **Unless something really small.**
- **Unless you really want it...**

Exodus 20:15

“You shall not steal.”

Exodus 20:15

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

– Luther's Small Catechism



DAN ARIELY

New York Times bestselling author of
Predictably Irrational and *The Upside of Irrationality*



THE (HONEST) TRUTH ABOUT DISHONESTY

How We Lie to Everyone—Especially Ourselves

“We want to view ourselves as honest, wonderful people and when we cheat ... as long as we cheat just a little bit, we can still view ourselves as good people.”

– Dan Ariely

“We want to view ourselves as honest, wonderful people and when we cheat ... as long as we cheat just a little bit, we can still view ourselves as good people.”

– Dan Ariely

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

James 2:10

“What’s MINE is MINE” (I own it)

“What’s MINE is MINE” (I own it)

“What’s YOURS is MINE” (I’ll steal it)

“What’s MINE is MINE” (I own it)

“What’s YOURS is MINE” (I’ll steal it)

“What’s MINE is GOD’S” (I’ll give it)

“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.”

1 Timothy 6:7

“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

**Don't steal in order to get more for yourself.
Work so you can give more away!**

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

Luke 19:1-2

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief **tax collector** and was wealthy.

Luke 19:1-2

³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way.

Luke 19:3-4

Be Humble.

³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way.

Luke 19:3-4

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”
⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

Luke 19:5-6

Be Honest.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter,
“He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner.’”

Luke 19:7



⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord,
“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.”

Luke 19:8

Be Generous.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

“The **thief** comes only to **steal** and **kill** and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10