

## 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.)*