

the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

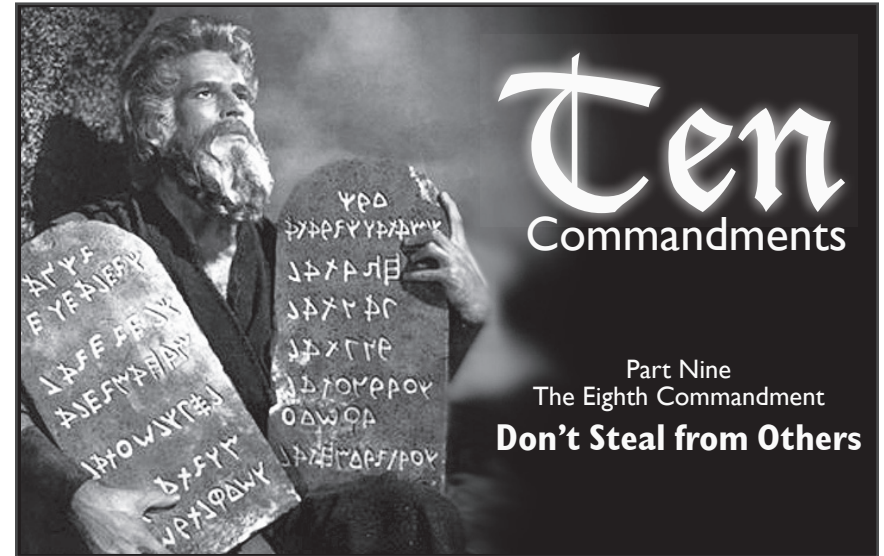
### Suggested Questions for Small Groups

1. What do you think are our main motives for taking for ourselves something that belongs to another person: stealing? We hate it when others steal from us, but why would we steal from others?
2. What do you think is good about the Leviticus 6 process for forgiveness after breaking the eighth commandment? What is this positive, yet difficult process, contingent upon (see verse 4)?
3. Read Eph. 4:28 (with message point #2). How does a radical change like the one described occur in a person's life? Why is it important that a thief transform into someone who shares what he has earned? How has the thief's attitude towards others changed in this transformation? Has this transformation happened in your life?
4. What is God's perspective on wealth and our enjoying it? What is your perspective on wealth and your enjoying it?
5. Read Mal. 3:10 and 2 Cor. 9: 10-11. What connection is being made between giving appropriately and generously of heart with our own personal blessing? Now read Hebrews 13:5-6. Putting it all together, what do you see is the heart motivation that Christians are to have when it comes to giving their tithes and offerings? And now the question that never gets asked in a group setting: Are you giving appropriately and generously from a transformed heart?

Next Sunday, June 27, 2010: **Ten Commandments**

#### Part 10 The Ninth Command - "You shall not give false testimony"

What happens to a society when people EXPECT that sales people, politicians, lawyers, journalists, talk-show hosts, special interest groups, scientists, contractors, inspectors, - okay, just about everyone - LIES? From little exaggerations to complete prevarications to willful falsification - it's all lying. God detests lies. He is Truth, while Satan is called the Deceiver, the father of Lies. Christians are called to become like our God - we are to be people who "speak the truth in love".



### How to Obey the Eighth Commandment:

Exodus 20:15 "You shall not steal."

Lev. 6:1-7

The LORD said to Moses: <sup>2</sup>"If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the LORD by deceiving his neighbor about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him, <sup>3</sup> or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin that people may do — <sup>4</sup> when he thus sins and becomes guilty, he must return what he has stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to him, or the lost property he found, <sup>5</sup> or whatever it was he swore falsely about. He must make restitution in full, add a fifth

**unfaithful to the LORD by deceiving** - Notice that stealing, cheating and lying are seen as unfaithfulness to God not just unfaithfulness to man. **by deceiving... if he cheats him... if he finds lost property and lies... if he swears falsely** - A list is made of the many means people use to misappropriate what belongs to another person. When we chose to take as our own possession something that belongs to another we become people who publicly deceive, lie or swear falsely. We become, "people of the lie."  
**when he thus sins and becomes guilty** - This phrase is depicting a person deciding to repent of their sin and wanting to gain forgiveness from both God and man.  
**return what he has stolen...make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value** - When an Israelite repented and sought forgiveness there was a path he had to take. First he had to go public with his sin. A priest as well as the injured party would need to be involved in a reconciliation process. He needed to return the stolen property plus an additional 20%. For those who stole property but did not confess and seek forgiveness, the

of the value to it and give it all to the owner on the day he presents his guilt offering. <sup>6</sup>And as a penalty he must bring to the priest, that is, to the LORD, his guilt offering, a ram from the flock, one without defect and of the proper value. <sup>7</sup>In this way the priest will make atonement for him before the LORD, and he will be forgiven for any of these things he did that made him guilty.”

penalties were much more severe when they were caught - as much as a forced fourfold restitution.

**guilt offering** - A ram was to be given to God as an additional penalty, but more importantly the ram was sacrificed as an atonement for the stealer's sin. This public sacrifice taught everyone that stealing another person's property was an act of unfaithfulness with the LORD. The only way to reconcile with God is through an atoning sacrifice. Christians look to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as our atonement for sins - sins of the past as well as the present and future.

## I. Stop taking what is not yours:

R \_\_\_\_\_ and make R \_\_\_\_\_.

Lev. 6:4-5

– when he thus sins and becomes guilty, he must return what he has stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to him, or the lost property he found, <sup>5</sup> or whatever it was he swore falsely about. He must make restitution in full, ...

## 2. Experience the blessing of honest I \_\_\_\_\_.

Experience the blessing of S \_\_\_\_\_.

Eph. 4:25-30

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

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Commentaries and resources used in preparation of this message: [The Message of Leviticus](#), by J.A. Motyer; [The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, Leviticus](#) by G.J. Wenham; [The Ten Commandments](#), by Dr. Laura Schlessinger and Rabbi Stewart Vogel.

## 3. A \_\_\_\_\_ God's perspective on possessions:

a. Since you are not taking even one bit of it with you when you die, don't love it, don't be devoted to it and don't serve it.

Matt. 6:19-21; 24

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>24</sup> “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.

b. Count your blessings and say, “It is E \_\_\_\_\_”.

Hebrews 13:1-6

Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” <sup>6</sup> So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

## 4. Don't Steal from G \_\_\_\_\_ but become a G \_\_\_\_\_ person.

Mal. 3:8-10

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. <sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

2 Cor. 9: 6-15 (Paul asks the Corinthians for money for another church)

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of