

#7 Why We Steal

Genesis 27:1-37

There Are Four **HIDDEN REALITIES** Of Stealing We Find
From The Story Of Jacob And Esau

1. Thieves listen to **PEOPLE'S VOICES** instead of God's voice
 - a. Jacob gets the idea to steal the blessing from Rebekah
 - b. Eve got the idea to steal the forbidden fruit from the serpent
 - c. We must test the voices of people against the voice of God
 2. Stealing always involves **A LIE**
 - a. Often the lies that lead to stealing are lies we tell ourselves
 - i. Nobody will **NOTICE**
 1. *Proverbs 15:3: The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good*
 2. *Jeremiah 23:24: Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? Declares the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth?"*
 - ii. God will not **PROVIDE** for my needs
 1. *Matthew 6:25-26: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"*
 2. What does your giving say?
 3. Stealing **HURTS** others
 - a. *James 2:10: For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*
 - b. Even what we view as the smallest of sins is offensive to a Holy God
 4. Stealing is an **IDENTITY** issue
 - a. The name "Jacob" means "he grabs the heel", a Hebrew idiom for "he deceives"
 - b. Just like Jacob, we can hear a label enough that we start to believe it's true
 - c. *2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"*
 - d. God changes Jacob's name from Jacob "the deceiver" to **ISRAEL** "the one who strives with God" once Jacob starts to cling to God
 - e. Identity drives **BEHAVIOR**
 - i. Once Jacob's identity changed, everything changed
 - f. Obeying the ten commandments is not about DOING, it's about BEING
- What is **YOUR NAME**?
- As Christians, we have a new identity and a new name today, but one day we will be given our forever name
 - *Revelation 3:12: ...I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name*
 - Let's start living out our new names!