

If It Ain't Yours . . .
Exodus 20:15 (KJV)
Thou Shall Not Steal
Verses in NIV

1. Stealing May Be Defined As Taking Away Someone Else's **PROPERTY**.

- So what exactly is property according to worldly wisdom and culture?
- What are some biblical perspectives on ownership rights?

Psalms 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it;*

Deuteronomy. 19:14 *Do not move your neighbor's boundary stone . . .*

Acts 2:45 *They (the community of believers) sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.*

Luke 6:30 *Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.*

Leviticus 19:13 *Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker*

Leviticus 19:9-10 *'When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.*

Hebrews 10:34 *You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.*

Matthew 22:21 . . . "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

1 Corinthians 6: 9-11 *Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

Proverbs 11:1 *The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.*

2. Stealing Is Matter Of **DISHONESTY**.

- Are we honest in business?
- Are we honest about taxes?
- Are we honest with our neighbors?

3. Can People Rob **God**?

Malachi 3:8-12 *"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe" says the Lord Almighty. ¹²"Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.*

- This is not a promise of personal prosperity.
- Giving to God is part of our offering of worship.
- God is worthy.
- Giving is a spiritual discipline.
- Yes, but should we really test God?

5. When Enough Is Not Enough For Us Be **GREED**.

We mistakenly think money can help with our unmet emotional needs.

It is a root cause or source of many kinds of wrongdoing.

4. Bad news: Desiring Dishonest Gain May Be Part Of Our Inherited Sinful **NATURE**.

James 4:1-3 *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

- A story of a father and son
- Two thieves crucified alongside Jesus

Luke 23:32-33, 39-43 *Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.*

. . . **39-43** *One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

6. Good news: Eternal **FORGIVENES** And Life Through Trust In Jesus

- Both thieves asked Jesus for salvation, only one was saved.
- What about us?