
SERMON NOTES November 7, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Exodus 20:15 & Ephesians 4:28
Redeeming A Stealing Heart
Pastor Mike

- I. The _____ and _____ of the 8th Commandment
 - a. The _____ of the command
 - b. The contemporary _____ of the command
 - c. Our _____ regarding the command
 - II. The command as _____ than just a _____
 - III. The _____ taught in the commandment
 - a. The principle of _____
 - b. The principle of _____
 - IV. The _____ behind the command
 - a. The character of our heart is revealed in _____
 - b. The heart attitude behind stealing is _____
 - c. The opposite of greed is a heart of _____
- A generous heart uses _____ to serve _____*

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Every study on the subject reveals that theft of every kind has increased by at alarming rates over the past 40 years in our country and is now a problem of epidemic proportions. What has changed in our society that has resulted in theft becoming such a problem?
2. Some people suggest that theft is a result of poverty; people steal because they don't have what they need. Do you agree or disagree, and why?
 - a. Theft was not a major problem during the 1930's (the great depression), when poverty and need were widespread. However, as America experienced years of unprecedented prosperity in the decades since, theft of every kind has soared. Why do you think this might be?
 - b. What does this suggest about the possible connection between wealth and theft?
3. Were there forms of stealing that were brought up in this morning's message that you never considered as theft before?
 - a. Were there any types of theft that you may have engaged in the past (or in the present) which God has convicted you as being a violation of the 8th commandment? What changes do you need to make in those areas?
 - b. Are there forms of stealing that are widely considered OK, even my most Christians?
 - c. Why do you think there are so many actions that are properly defined as violations of the 8th commandment, but that our culture has accepted as innocent?
4. In his message Pastor Mike taught that one of the foundational principles taught in the 8th commandment is the principle of private property.
 - a. What was your initial response to the idea that the idea of ownership of private property is a foundational principle taught in the Bible?
 - b. Why is this a foundational principle for our lives and our culture? What is the negative impact if we forget the principle of private property?
5. A second foundational principle underpinning the 8th commandment is the principle of stewardship – God ultimate owns everything, and he has entrusted things to us as stewards. Why is this so important? How will remembering this principle impact the problem of theft?
6. Throughout our study of the Ten Commandments, we've seen that all the commandments are more than just moral rules God wants us to obey. They are all teaching foundational principles of truth and are all dealing with an issue of the heart.
 - a. In earlier messages we've seen that the heart issue behind the command against adultery is lustful desire (Matt 5:27-28), and the heart issue behind the command against murder is unresolved anger (Matt 5:21-22). What is the heart attitude behind the command against stealing?
 - b. The Bible goes beyond moral rules that teach us what we shouldn't do, but also teaches the development of positive character defining what we should be. What are the positive character traits that God wants us to develop that are the opposite of stealing?