

## The Eighth Commandment

You shall not steal. – *Exodus 20:15*

### My Decision

I will not take what does not belong to me. I will work for what I get.

### One conclusion from the Commandments:

God has a problem with takers.

### Messing with God's Stuff

Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, are to be returned to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; they are to be deposited in the house of God. – *Ezra 6:5*

But when [Nebuchadnezzar's] heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes. – *Daniel 5:20-21*

While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

– *Daniel 5:2*

That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain. – *Daniel 5:30*

**Conclusion:** God takes seriously the sin of theft.

### What are we prone to steal?

- Stuff – theft of actual items
- Resources – music and videos
- Information – theft of personal information
- Time – by neglecting our work
- Honor – by not giving credit where credit is due
- Attention – by using false motives to invoke pity or assistance
- Intellectual Property – plagiarism
- Financial disobedience – Malachi 3:6-12
- Truth – by withholding a complete understanding of circumstances

## What excuses do we use?

- Everyone else is doing it.
- The owner won't miss it.
- The owner already has enough stuff.

### **Stealing is an issue of honor, respect and trust.**

When we steal, we are saying that God isn't smart enough to carry out his own dispersion plan!

King David's Statement of Honor, Respect and Trust: *Psalms 146*

## **The Big Ten Challenge**

I will commit to convene my most important small group (my family) once a week to discuss this week's commandment. We will discuss the commandment questions with honesty and truthfulness and close our time by praying for each other.

### **Suggestions for families:**

This is a great time to talk about how we steal respect from each other by the way we treat each other.

### **Suggestions for small groups:**

This is a great time to talk about how we justify stealing. Start by addressing work ethic – the conversation will be amazing! Colossians 3:23 is a great guide.

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**



- 1) What is your favorite part of summer?
- 2) Has anyone ever stolen anything from you? How did it make you feel?
- 3) Have you ever stolen anything? Why do you think you can still remember doing it?
- 4) Why do you think God takes stealing so seriously? What other sins can it lead to?
- 5) Take a quiet moment in your group. Ask God to convict you about an area in which you may be stealing. What are you going to do to make this area right?
- 6) How can we pray for each other tonight?