

Sermon Reflections

The Heart of the Steal (Exodus 20:15)

Summary: Don't be a taker, a stealer. Be a hardworking, generous giver.

Eighth Command: Don't Steal. Work and Give.

1. The Heart of Thieving (Exodus 20:15, Leviticus 19:11-13)

- Exodus 22 is all about the restitution due when something is stolen. How does this impact your thinking when it comes to stealing?
- There are two different words in the Hebrew for stealing; stealing and robbery.
 - Define them. What is the difference and why does it matter in this context?

2. The Heart of the Thief (Joshua 7)

- Consider Achan's response in Joshua 7:21.
 - What drives us to steal?
 - We see Achan rationalize what he wanted before taking it. Do you rationalize your actions when you covet something?
- When we steal, whether by need or by greed, it is because of a lack of trust in God?
 - What are some practical ways to keep your trust focused on God? How can we encourage each other to keep trusting in God and not in ourselves?

3. The Heart of a Repentant Thief (Ephesians 4:20-28)

- The heart of the repentant thief seeks to better our neighbor, not take advantage of them.
 - What does the repentant thief replace stealing with in his life? (Consider Eph. 4:28)
 - Many people don't freely share their needs with others. How can we seek out those in need around us that we may give to build them up and encourage them?
- Consider the dichotomy of a thief versus Christ in John 10:10.
 - Christ gave His life, which is worth so much more than anything we could ever steal in this life. We shouldn't selfishly take, but we should selflessly give in the abundance that Christ has already given us.
 - How can we do this better as individuals, as families, and as a church?