

Exodus 20:15
October 12, 2014

Open with Prayer

HOOK:

We are still making our way through the Ten Commandments. The last five deal with our relationship to others. For example:

- “You shall not murder” – we can murder others by viewing them worthless, or marginalizing them, ignoring them, or devaluing them by how we talk to them or think of them.
- “You shall not commit adultery” – we need to take seriously covenant vows made to spouses and honor the marriage commitment. We said that adultery not only spiritually damages the adulterer, but it also damages families and tears the fabric of our society.

Transition: Today we are going to look at the eighth commandment that affects our relationship to others - Ex 20:15 which reads, “You shall not steal.” Let’s begin.

[Read 20:15]

V.15:

- “You shall not steal.”
- Q: What is the most important thing that has been stolen from you? [valuable item? Trust? Health? Promotion?]
- Q: Beyond the obvious of taking someone else’s property, how else does “stealing” look like in today’s culture? [Attitude of discontent]
- Sermon Theme (Dr. Haney): The world relentlessly takes and takes and takes. We become vulnerable to breaking this commandment when we look at someone else and with envy decide we want what they have. We unwittingly move toward a mindset that says “I Deserve Better.” It is a mindset of discontent.
- Q: How do we overcome this attitude of discontent? [Let people wrestle with this.] Dr. Haney suggests it is “to give and give and give!” Three ways to immunize ourselves from “stealing” from others -
 - First, be willing to celebrate the success and accomplishments of others. Learn to appreciate the blessings others have. To do this, we don’t look at others with jealousy.
 - Second, we recognize/rejoice in the blessings He gives us! But we don’t want to make the mistake of stealing from God the praise that goes to Him. When we take credit ourselves, we steal from Him. To immunize ourselves from stealing, follow the Law of the Open Hand that has two components:
 - Thankfulness – Always give thanks and praise for everything!
 - See everything in our hands as His anyway. We are stewards only.
 - Game changer: Bless others as we have been blessed. We give and give and give. We violate the 8th commandment by keeping things we don’t need!! We forget that *we have enough*. We rob others of what they need when we withhold what we can give. [Deut 15:7-11]

- X-Ref: Eph. 4:28 (notice the end goal of work is to share with others in need!); 2 Thes. 3:10–12; James 5:1–4

LOOK:

Q: If the higher standard behind “Do not steal” is to NOT withhold your resources from those who are in need, who will you reach out to in order to “give and give and give” as Dr. Haney suggests to be a blessing to others?

Close in Prayer

Commentaries for Today’s Lesson:

Toussaint, S. D. (1985). Acts. (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Eds.)The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures. (Vol. 2, pp. 115–124). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

i. The eighth commandment (20:15)

20:15. This command was given to encourage the respect of others’ property. This too is an important element in a stable society. It is closely related to the 10th commandment.

Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J. P., & Powell, D. (2007). The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith (pp. 92 – 94). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

20:15 For a discussion of stealing, see note on 3:22.

Dr. Dave Haney – Sermons on the Ten Commandments:

**http://www.riverbend.com/media#!/swx/pp/media_archives/130876/episode/35670?play=1
(Sermon on “Do Not Steal” by Dr. Dave Haney)**