

10 Words of Grace. A Study of the Ten Commandments

Week #9: Exodus 20.

Questions: #8 Stealing

November 11, 2018

1. On Sunday we examined a broader definition of stealing:
Getting as much as you can while giving as little as possible.

Living in a capitalistic and consumeristic culture this definition may not seem like something sinful, but normal every day life. Perhaps that's the point. Does following Jesus require us to take a different view on stuff and our acquisition of it?

Does following Jesus make any impact on how you acquire stuff?

2. Frugality does not necessitate justice. Sometimes paying less for something is actually just stealing resources or livelihoods from others. As a group, choose something that you feel you got a great deal on recently. Talk about all the steps that went into that product. Extraction of the raw materials, technology, assembly, shipment, storage, sales staff, etc... Do you as a Christian have a responsibility to the people all through these processes?

3. If you are an employer, do you feel convicted about your dealings with your employees? Are you stealing from them by seeking to get as much as you can while giving as little as possible? Are you generous and seeking every opportunity to be generous towards them? What responsibility do you have to them as a Christian? Do you employees see Jesus when they interact with you?

If you are an employee, do you feel convicted about your dealings with your employer? Are you stealing from them by seeking to get as much as you can while giving as little as possible? Do you give your best and seek to honour their trust and investment in you? What responsibility do you have to them as a Christian? Does your employer see Jesus when they interact with you?

4. God describes himself as a loving father. He is the giver of everything good. He has given us each time, talents, and treasures. List blessings that God has given to you. (Spiritual, physical, emotional, ect...)

Just like the parable of the stewards, what kind of investment return might God be expecting from what he has given to you?

5. The book of Malachi is a word from God to his people about the insufficiency of their worship. The priests were going through the motions of sacrifice. God commanded that the best from the flock would be offered to him in sacrifice, the people were offering the crippled and lame. God demanded the choice cuts be offered, the priests were giving the entrails. God rebuked the people and refused to honour the sacrifice because the people were just going through the motions. God accused the people of stealing from him.

This enters into some sensitive places, but how do you feel about your offerings to God. Are you sacrificially giving him the best you have, or do you toss him the leftovers?