

"The Eighth Commandment"

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Eighth Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

Grace and expectations

Exodus 20:2—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Exodus 20:15—"You shall not steal."

Five concepts

In the Bible-study presentation, I organized my material into five concepts. In this article, I will refer to those five different concepts.

Stealing things, including money

- *Exodus 22:1*—What if a person stole an ox or sheep?
- *Exodus 22:2-3*—A difference if the thief was killed during a day burglary or a night burglary.
- *Exodus 22:4*—If a thief was caught with the animals alive, he paid the owner double.
- *Exodus 22:5*—If an animal grazed in another man's field, the owner made restitution from the best of his own field and best of his own vineyard.
- *Leviticus 19:11*—You shall not steal, nor deal falsely.
- *Leviticus 19:13*—You shall not cheat your neighbor, or rob him.
- *Isaiah 1:23-24*—God will take vengeance on a companion of thieves.

- *Jeremiah 7:9-16*—When a person committed sins (including stealing), he lost favor in the temple.
- *Hosea 4:1-3*—Sins in the land (including stealing) caused mourning in the land.
- *Zechariah 5:3*—In a vision, there was a flying scroll with a curse that was written: "Every thief shall be expelled."
- *Malachi 3:8-10*—Will a person rob God?
- *Luke 3:12-13*—The Son of God told the tax collectors: "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."
- *Luke 3:14*—The Son of God told the soldiers: "Be content with your wages."
- *John 18:40*—Barabbas was a robber.
- *Romans 13:7*—Pay what you owe.
- *1 Corinthians 5:11*—Disciples should avoid a brother who is an extortioner.
- *1 Corinthians 6:9-10*—Thieves shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Kidnapping is stealing people

- *Exodus 21:16*—A kidnapper shall surely be put to death.
- *Deuteronomy 24:7*—A kidnapper shall die.
- *1 Timothy 1:9-10*—The law was not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and sinner—one of the sins listed was kidnapping.

Stealing civil freedom

- *1 Samuel 8:1-22*—When Israel wanted a king, God warned the Israelites that the civil leaders would steal from them.
- *Matthew 20:25-28*—The Son of God warned about civil rulers wanting to lord it over people and to exercise authority over people.

Stealing religious freedom

- *2 Corinthians 11:20*—Some of the disciples were allowing religious leaders to do the following: place in bondage, devour, steal, exalt over and hit.
- *John 2:14-16*—The Son of God corrected people who were making the Father's house into a house of merchandise (using religion to take money from the people).
- *Matthew 21:12-13*—When the Son of God corrected the people who were making the Father's house into a place of business, He quoted Isaiah 56:7 (about a house of prayer for all people) and called them a "den of thieves."
- *Matthew 23:4-12*—The Son of God saw the religious leaders putting heavy burdens on the people and elevating their own importance.
- *Revelation 3:11*—The Son of God warned disciples to not allow anyone (including religious leaders) to take their crown.

Stealing truth—by stealing God's name and His credibility

- *Jeremiah 23:30-31*—The Lord is against the prophets who "steal My words"—by falsely attributing those words to God.
- *John 10:1-8*—Some among the flock are thieves and robbers.
- *John 10:10*—The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy.
- *2 Peter 2:1-3*—False teachers steal truth, often because of covetousness—having a desire for power and money.