

June 19, 2022

Count to Ten

Important Info

Study Help

Along the way, you might consider these beneficial additional resources.

The first resource is Jen Wilkin's book "*Ten Words to Live By.*" Copies of this book can be purchased before or after Sunday services at Connection Central.

The second resource is a free online commentary that can be found at <https://bit.ly/3slhfjx>



Friendly Reminder

Don't let your familiarity with the Ten Commandments prevent you from thinking deeply about what they mean in the life of the Church, and in your life specifically.

Important Dates

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| June 1-July 27 | Summer Reading Club |
| June 20-24 | Generate Summer Camp |
| June 27-July 1 | Connect Camp |

Additional information for these events and more can be found online at LegacyChurch.org

Scripture Memory *(optional)*

You shall not steal. - Exodus 20:15 (NASB)

Exodus 20:15 & Ephesians 4:17-32 (Emphasis on 4:28)

Opening

Consider your childhood for a moment. Did you ever steal anything as a kid? If so, what was it and did you get caught? What happened when you were found out? If you didn't steal anything, what prevented you from stealing?

Now consider your life today. Is there anything that you do that might be considered stealing? (Items that fit in this category can include taking supplies or time from your job, plagiarism, borrowing services that you don't pay for (such as not paying for Netflix!), not returning borrowed items, et cetera.). Why do you consider (or not consider) it stealing? Is it even worth considering small items such as those briefly mentioned as stealing? Why or why not?

Bible Study

The Moody Bible Commentary states that the eighth commandment "forbids the taking of any goods or valuables of another without due compensation and any form of dishonest profit or gain at the expense of another." Considering their recent freedom from slavery, how might this commandment have impacted individual Israelites views of security and peace? What did this commandment mean for the entire nation of Israel?

Read the short article from USA Today that can be found at the end of this handout. Do you agree with the author's statements? Why or why not? Consider the similarities and/or differences that is presented in the secular publication compared to the views of Christianity. Is there anything that we can learn from her views? Should it concern us as Christians that we can be guilty of stealing in small ways? In what ways might we need to re-evaluate our understanding of stealing? Is there any stealing that you need to confess? *If so, take a moment as a group and silently confess to God the theft (no matter how big or small), and then ask for His wisdom on how to remedy the situation.*

Jen Wilkin writes on page 116 in her book "Christians steal. Against all logic, we steal like everyone else, seeking to gain at someone else's expense. If only we could learn from Jacob's story that God has already given us birthright and blessing in Christ. Innumerable riches. In him we have an imperishable inheritance that is kept in heaven for us. But heaven is annoyingly invisible, so we turn to the visible and find that we would just as soon store up treasure here." Do you agree or disagree with Wilken's comments? Why or why not? Why does Wilken emphasize what Jesus has given us in a section on stealing? How does that make a practical and real world difference to you as a Christian in 2022?

Ephesians 4:17-32 gives Christians instructions on how to walk in holiness. Dr. Thomas Constable states "*The third exhortation (verse 28) is to refrain from stealing but to work instead, so that we will have something to share with the needy. Paul did not mention other benefits of work here, such as providing for one's own needs and doing something useful. He emphasized the most noble of motives. Stealing covers all forms of taking what we should not take. This verse is a reaffirmation of the teaching (in Exodus 20:15).*" How does Paul's instructions for Christian living help you think clearly regarding the motives, or heart, behind not stealing? What advice would you give a Christian friend that is caught up in stealing from their family, work, and/or the Lord? What counsel from Scripture or word of encouragement did you need to hear this week?

Is there any additional application or conviction that has come from this week's sermon and/or lesson? If so, let's discuss this now.

Closing

This week take inventory throughout your day where you steal from others, whether that is God or people. Make a list, mental or otherwise, of the times that you check social media while you should be working, or where you take the spot of another person in line, or take extra Whataburger ketchup. While this may seem like a juvenile exercise, helping to reorient our minds to the small things that we steal will help us to realize that Jesus died for our "small" thefts on the cross. Then, offer a prayer of gratitude and praise for Jesus redeeming us from this sin.

PERSONAL FINANCE

7 little things that almost everyone steals

Erika Rawes Wall St. Cheat Sheet

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Have you ever thought of yourself as a thief? Odds are you have stolen something at least once in your life. Of course, this doesn't mean you are a vicious criminal who creates manipulative plots to rob banks or steal diamonds.

But more than likely, at one time or another, you have "borrowed" something and forgotten to give it back, picked up something you thought was yours and put it in your pocket, or accidentally borrowed a dish from your neighbor that is now your favorite serving plate.

You may be thinking "that doesn't count" about some of these small things. You may have thought it was yours, and, hey, nobody's really going to miss it.

Though these cases of petty, petty, petty, petty, petty theft are probably not going to get you time in the slammer, when you take a second to think about it, we steal a lot of stuff. We created a list of some of the most common things we like to steal the most — some of them accidentally and others, we steal on purpose.

1. Pens

"Darn it, Joe stole my pen again." Pen theft is so common around the office that 70 percent of office employees say they've have had a pen go missing, and 40 percent have actually caught a co-worker stealing their pen red-handed. We steal pens so much that doctor's offices actually tie them to clipboards. And banks, well, they chain those pens down so our thieving hands don't walk out with them.

It may sound ridiculous, but is it? If we steal, say, 1,000 pens from the doctor's office at 25 cents a pop, that's \$250. Have you ever stolen someone's pen?

2. A spot in line

Have you ever cut in line? When someone cuts in line, in all actuality, that person is stealing someone else's time. That person has to wait longer because the line cutter stole the spot he or she waited for. This can produce varying reactions. The person who stood there waiting may become infuriated and confront the line-cutter; he or she may give the line cutter a dirty look, but figure it's not really worth a confrontation and simply let it go; or he or she may assertively tell the line-cutter to move to the back of the line.

The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology studied how people react in this situation. Although its research is dated, it is still compelling. When someone cuts in line, people object 54% of the time. When two people try to cut, however, people objected much more frequently — about 91% of the time.

You may be thinking, "I've never cut in line." But think about those times when you're in a long line at the store and a new register opens up. When the cashier says, "I can take someone at this register," have you ever rushed to get to that empty register before the person who should theoretically be next in line?

3. Hotel amenities

When staying in a hotel, many people want to enjoy a relaxing experience: a comfy bed, coffee in the morning, and a nice, hot shower. A survey by Hotels.com found that 23% of travelers look for rooms with high-end coffee makers, and 34 percent say that free Wi-Fi is a must-have. Many people look for the comforts of home and some, well, they like to take hotel comforts home with them.

More than one-third (35%) of hotel guests admit to stealing hotel amenities like towels and linens. Of the countries surveyed, Denmark appears to steal the least from hotels, and Colombia admits to stealing the most, which means those people either steal a whole lot of hotel swag or they're just more honest than some of the other survey respondents. The U.S. was not at the bottom, but we did rank pretty low on the honesty list, ranking in at No. 23 out of 29 countries.

4. Parking spots

It's Black Friday. The parking lot is completely packed and it appears as though there's not a single place to park your vehicle. All of the sudden, you see a spot in the next row over. The only problem is, another car is already going for that same spot. Do you try and get there first?

Now, you're in a duel — a dangerous game where winner takes all. Maybe you turn on some old Western music for motivation. Driving through the Walmart parking lot at 17 miles per hour, you reach the spot first and park.

Although the scenario may not have been as dramatic, most people have, at one time or another, taken a parking spot that someone else had their eye on first.

5. Books and magazines

These days, we have e-readers, tablets, and phones with reading apps. But many of us still love a good old-fashioned book. Have you ever borrowed a book and forgotten to return it? Is that book sitting on your shelf?

While scanning through a magazine, maybe you inadvertently brought it with you instead of putting it back down before you left. Many doctor's offices and hair salons have piles of magazines in the waiting area to reduce boredom during the waiting period. Have you ever accidentally taken one of those magazines home with you?

6. Lighters

A lighter is one of the most commonly lost items, along with pens and wallets. For a smoker, a lighter is an essential item — that person needs his or her lighter to light cigarettes around 20 times a day. Have you ever seen a smoker out in public who doesn't have a light? He or she may scan the surroundings, looking for other smokers who can lend one, or a nearby convenience store where a lighter can be purchased.

It's easy to place something so small into your pocket. You may be used to holding a lighter in your hand, and when you have someone else's, you think it's yours and just walk away with it. Enjoying your new lighter?

7. Restaurant straws, napkins and condiments

Do you steal the sugar or Sweet 'n' Low packets from the tables at restaurants? What about ketchup and mustard packets? "A few extra napkins for my glove box won't hurt anyone," you may think to yourself. If so, you're certainly not the only one.

CNN reported on sugar and condiment swiping. When CNN asked Jim 'N' Nick's BBQ about sugar theft in restaurants, CEO Nick Pihakis told CNN that "as a restaurant operator, it is amazing to me how much of a negative financial impact every sugar packet, ketchup packet that leaves the building unaccounted for affects our bottom line." These condiments account for around 1% of the restaurants' total supply cost, which equates to around \$900,000.

Sugar and condiments are not the only foods we steal from food establishments. Ever taste something from your pay-by-weight container at the store or deli before it's weighed? Caught you!

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