

Series: 10 Commandments

Title: Unleashing the Generous Life

Text: Exodus 20:15, Deuteronomy 25:13-16, Ephesians 4:28

Breaking the Ice:

OPTION # 1 – What is the first thing you remember stealing? What is the last thing you stole?

OPTION # 2 – Have you ever had something stolen? How did it make you feel?

Discussion/Study:

1. Read Deuteronomy 25:13-16 – There are many different things we steal (ideas, writings, belongings, identities, reputations, good names, people, land, praise, credit, time). What things have you stolen? What things have you had stolen?
2. Read Deut. 22:1-4 – In contrast to the world’s mantra, “finders keepers losers weepers” - God’s not only calls us to avoid taking things that don’t belong to us, He calls us to preserve the property of others as well, even if that property belongs to our enemies. How is this act of “love of neighbor” driven by and reflected in the gospel? Pretend you find something that doesn’t belong to you, how do you live this out?
3. The repentance of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8-10) reflects the OT principle that repentance from stealing also requires restitution (see Exodus 22:1-15 & Leviticus 6:1-7). Why is this idea of having the person at fault pay back their victim (w/ interest) both wise and important for the correction of the thief and healing of the victim? Is repentance without restitution really even repentance?
4. Read Exodus 22:1-15 & Leviticus 6:1-7 – In both of these Old Testament passages we see that the restitution required is a reflection of the particular crime committed and the damages done to the victim. How do we live this principle out in our own sin and repentance today? How does the repentance of the wrongdoer (or lack of it) influence what is required of them?
5. Read James 5:1-6 – Michael talked about the difference between “theft from above” [stealing from those “over us” in stature; i.e., Robin Hood] and “theft from below” [stealing “candy from a baby”]. Which type of theft do you most identify with? What truths does each group need to believe and/or remember? [contentment? God is judge? Etc.]
6. Read Luke 12:13-21 & Ephesians 4:28 – The eighth commandment ultimately drives us to be generous with our time, talents, and treasures just as God is generous with us. Why is it so tempting to “hoard” rather than share? What are some practical ways God might be calling you to use what you have (time, talents, and treasures) to be a blessing to others?