

CONNECT

bella vista baptist church

Sunday, November 9, 2025



THEFT

commandment eight

Exodus 20:15; Matthew 15:18-20

"You shall not steal."

"But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, **theft**, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

The BIG Idea

Theft is a heart issue.

Introduction

The Eighth Commandment sounds easy enough. Many of us probably stolen a toy from a sibling as a kid and maybe even have lifted a paperclip from work as an adult, but it's not like we've pulled off a heist at Le Louvre. So, "Don't Steal" sounds like a sermon to sleep through.

But, as we've already seen in this series, the Ten Commandments grow deeper and wider in the context of Jesus' teachings and the Bible as a whole. As with the other commandments, it is easy for theft to sneak into our hearts and actions in seemingly justifiable ways. But Jesus' perspective is always about more than the act of disobedience. Jesus always goes straight to the heart of the issue.

And the Eight Commandment is no different.

Verses for Meditation

Psalm 24:1-2

Matthew 6:19-34

1 Timothy 6:17

Ephesians 4:28

Questions for Reflection

How has this Sunday's consideration of the Eighth Commandment affected how you think about theft and greed?

Did you ever steal anything as a child? If so, did you get caught? What did you learn from your experience?

Have you ever had anything stolen from you? If so, how did it affect you? How did you feel about the thief?

What kinds of theft are acceptable or tolerated by the culture? What kinds of theft are you willing to excuse?

Why is stealing sinful?

What is the heart issue behind stealing? How does Matthew 6:19-21 address the heart issue?

Read Matthew 6:25-33. How does this passage encourage you to trust God's Providence and provision?

Read Ephesians 4:28A. How does this passage teach you about the value of work?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17 and Ephesians 4:28B. What do these passages teach you about what you are to do with God's provision?

What act of generosity (small or large) is God prompting you to this week?

"Every time I give, I declare that money does not control me. Perpetual generosity is a perpetual de-deification of money" (R. Kent Hughes).

I Surrender All

Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1896

All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender, here my wealth, my gifts I bring;
every grace poured down from heaven I return as praise, and sing:.

Chorus

I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to thee, my blessed Savior; I surrender all.