

Exodus 40 - Eighth Precept
 Stealing from Others and Yourself
 Exodus (Names) - Changing the World
 Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 20:15



Eighth Precept

Stealing robs through subterfuge rather than direct force (murder)

Subterfuge acts slyly rather than directly, often with lying, its partner in deceit; these are different sides of same scroll

Eighth Precept - Stealing from Others and Yourself

Man's Progression from God to gods; from holiness to



The Face of a Thief

- Ganab - The Hebrew word for stealing and thief
- Means to take by stealth without violence, force
- Anyone can be a thief, everyone is a thief



Stealing Does Not Discriminate

- Thievery appropriates what belongs to another for one's own advantage
- Thievery is endemic to all cultures and ethnicities
- Thievery requires death, like all sin Ps. 141:5



Thievery In Training

- The trait to steal is innate to everyone's sin nature
- Parents train children to be effective, undetected
- Therefore, everyone steals from each other: the lost and the sinning Christian



Basic Application of Precept

- Obviously the precept begins with personal property
- The implication is that the thief is one's neighbor
- One has the expectation of safety
 - The thief blends in, being hard to detect
 - The thief knows the property and the best time to steal

Advance Application of Precept

- By the time of the Axial Age (Age of the Prophets) thievery was expanded to include spiritual concepts
 - Absalom is described as stealing the hearts of men of Israel to lead an uprising against his father David (2Sa. 15:6)
 - Jeremiah discussed "false prophets" who steal God's words; that is, they claim to speak for God but speak for their own benefit at the expense of their listeners (Je. 23:30)

Synergy of Thievery and Lying

- Zechariah sees a flying scroll in a vision from God (Ze. 5:1-4)
 - The scroll contains God's words to punish perpetrators
 - One side of the scroll pronounces judgment on thieves
 - The other side pronounces judgement against liars
- Violations of the Law demanded expulsion from Israel; after returning from exile the provisions against the Law such as thievery and lying remained in effect

Jesus Expands This Precept

- Jesus teaches that the true application of this precept will focus one's attention Heavenward Mat 6:19,20
 - One's focus should not be earthward as all one obtains can be stolen and profits no spiritual maturity
 - One should be developing Christ-likeness which follows one into eternity future
 - What you *treasure*: reveals your heart; whom you worship; what you believe - the source of *your* truth

The Worst Thievery of All Jo 10:7-8

- Christ describes false teachers as worst thieves
- They come pretending to be Christ, stealing Gospel
- Their goal is to destroy the Gospel, scatter God's believers, and kill the lost



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The First Thief

- Satan stole God's Word (meaning and context) from Woman, giving her a false truth (lie) in return Ge 3:1-7
 - He was stealthy, crafty for he knew the truth, hating it
 - Woman *voluntarily* exchanged the truth of God for a lie
 - She acted on the lie and discovered death (spiritual)
- This is the first act of thievery in the Bible and resulted in death; therefore, stealing the truth is **murder** Jo 8:44

False Prophet and Prophetess



Gnosticism Infiltrates all Religions

- True deception blends all religions into a unity based on Gnosticism
(Unity Through Diversity)
- Gnostic elements are in every religion awaiting its False Prophet, 2nd Beast
(Re 13:12)



Summarization of Thievery

- The precept of stealing material objects only illustrates the more tragic form of stealing that robs one of truth
- Thieves are those who “appear” to be sources of truth but give people lies they want to believe *(1Pe 2:17; Jo 1:12-13)*
- All who believe the lie reject the truth as demonstrated in their downward degrading lifestyle, loving their sin
(2Ti 2:14)

Immature Christians Confused

- Christians cannot lose their salvation but they can stunt their development and receive recompense (1Co 5:6-8)
 - They can suffer sickness or debility to “wake” them up
 - They can suffer death as Jesus deems necessary (1Co 11:27-32)
- The word of God is the best defense against the wiles of the devil and his false teachers (1Pt 6:12-20, 1Pe 5:11-6:3)

Christian’s Important Duty

- Each Christian has a very important duty to Jesus, others, and self
 - Each of us must guard against becoming a thief (1Co 7:1-9)
 - Each of us will be tempted many times (1Co 1:12-17)
 - Each of us will want to control another’s behavior (1Co 7:1-9)
 - We must *discern* the behavior of others while we ask Christ to change us more into His nature; otherwise, we sin by condemning others rather than ourselves (Ro 2:1-11)

Judaism Failed – Our Example (1Co 10:6-12)

- Judaism sought to justify itself by its behavior (Ro 2:17-29)
 - Yet, their sinfulness rejected the truth of Scripture
 - They were guilty of stealing God’s word (1Co 3:10-15)
 - Thus, they killed their Messiah who confronted them
- Yet, God’s mercy and grace will bring them and us together in His New Covenant – Amen (Ro 11, Ro 11:1-6)