

Serm. Series: The Good, The Goad, The Guide: Ten Commandments

Sermon Text: Exodus 20:15 Love Stewardship: The Eighth Commandment

As stewards of God we are to treasure God and trust His providence.

1) God, the Owner of all things, apportions to each according to His holy, wise, and just providence.

- a) Owner of all things (Psalm 50:10-12)
- b) Giver of all things (Acts 17:25-26; 1 Timothy 6:17; James 1:17)
- c) **Application:** Stealing comes in a variety of forms:
 - i) Theft and Receiving Stolen Goods (Eph. 4:28; Prov. 29:24)
 - ii) Using False Weights and Measures (Prov. 11:1; Prov. 20:10)
 - iii) Not Repaying Debts (Psalm 37:21)
 - iv) Bribing, Exorbitant Interest, and Extortion (Ezek. 22:12)
 - v) Withholding Wages (James 5:4)
 - vi) Idleness (2 Thess. 3:6-12)
 - vii) Withholding Charity (1 John 3:17)
 - viii) Withholding Tithes (Mal. 3:8)
 - ix) Envy and Covetousness (Exod. 20:17; Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:3, 5)
 - x) Discontentment (1 Tim. 6:6; Heb. 13:5)

2) As His stewards we are to trust God's providence.

- a) Stealing is a heart/trust issue.
 - i) Disregard for the Interests of Others (Phil. 2:4, 21)
 - ii) Begrudging God (1 Tim. 6:17)
 - iii) Usurping God's Privilege—claiming the right to distribute what belongs to God
- b) **Application:** The thief does not trust God's providence.
 - i) Do you trust that God knows best?
 - ii) Can you be faithful with the little? (Matt. 25:14-30)
 - iii) Do you want what you want to serve God and others? (Eph. 4:28)

3) As His stewards we are to treasure God.

- a) Covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:5). Stealing is the acquisition of idols.
- b) love of money is the enemy of love of God/neighbor (1 Tim. 3:3; 6:10; Heb. 13:5; Matt. 6:24)
- c) **Application:** Where is your treasure?
 - i) Where is your worship directed?
 - ii) What are your daily liturgies?
 - iii) There is hope in Christ who died between two thieves (Matt. 27:38; Luke 23: 42-43).

Doxology: Blessed be the LORD! For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. Psalm 28:6-7