

Intro

10 commandments – God talking to us

They are signposts to help us live God's way

Recap

Commandments 1 - 7

8th Commandment:

“Do not steal anything”

“Do not take what does not belong to you.”

What Does It Mean To Steal?

Different sorts of stealing

1. Taking something that is not yours. (11 & 12)
2. Conning people. (13)
3. Borrowed things not returned. - Money, books, CDs, Videos etc (14 ...)
4. Promising to do something and not – stealing trust / time / (15)
5. Misusing other people's things – e.g. mobile phone, house, time, kindness ... (16)
6. Taking things from our employers – paper, phone calls, bits and bobs from work.
7. Leaving work early – long lunch breaks. (17)

Why Do We Steal?

1. We want more, more, more, or better, better, better. (18 - 19)
2. We make an idol of things / clothes / etc. - They become more important than God. (20)
3. We buy things – we shop for things we do not need and sometimes don't want! (21)

Nothing wrong with having things – our attitude is important. We think that things will make us happy and they do not! Only God can make us happy! (23)

Everything belongs to God anyway:

“O God our Father may you be praised for ever and ever. Greatness, power, glory, victory and honour belong to you. Why? Because everything in heaven (24) and on earth belongs (25) to You.... Everything come from You. We can only give back to You what You have given us” 1 Chronicles 29:10 – 11, 14.

1. This means that everything belongs to God and nothing belongs to us! Our things are not ours. They are on loan from God. If something is on loan, we may need to give it back.
2. If we steal we are stealing from God. (26)

3. If we steal we are really saying that we do not trust God. We are saying that what God has given me is not enough!
4. If we steal we are saying that we need something that God has not given us – we know best! NOT!
5. A thief will always want more! SO stop now (27)

Action

Face up to theft as it is

It is not, “borrowed” “acquired” “helped myself” “fallen off a back of a lorry” “surplus to requirements” “less than transparent in making a claim” IT IS STEALING.

Put things right

What can we do to put things right?

1. Stop stealing. (27)
2. Give back what you have stolen. (28)
3. Give back what you have borrowed – CDs, money, Videos, books, clothes, etc. etc. (29)
4. If you have swindled / conned something out of someone give it back (30)
5. Pay bills on time. (31)
6. Be honest in all you do.
7. Work hard at center, FACET, nappies, charity shop, home etc. (32 33)
8. Give what you should – time money effort, help, smiles!..... (34)
9. Stop being greedy. Stop taking for yourself (35)
10. Trust God to provide what you need. (36)

Summary:

7th Commandment:

“Do not steal anything”

“Do not take what does not belong to you.”