

Thou Shalt Not Steal

Exodus 20: 15

As people get deeper into deliverance, it soon comes to a point, where the disciples found themselves.

Matthew 17: 19 to 21 - Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

They have two choices; get closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ, or be like Simon Magus, and get the latest gimmick to show off how good they were.

Acts 8: 13 - Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Acts 8: 18 to 23 - And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Does he repent, or does he try to get the punishment lifted?

If we are going to be successful in deliverance, we are going to have to deal with the hard areas that Our Lord exposes.

To-day's topic is one of them.

You don't have to follow the news very much to see what's going on.

Micah 7: 3 NKJV - That they may successfully do evil with both hands--The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together.

But if any society is going to survive and prosper; there has to be certain guidelines. One of the main ones is following the Golden Rule.

Matthew 7: 12 - Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

So when God says in Exodus 20: 15 - Thou shalt not steal; it is important for all to obey.

Why is it, that all throughout history, most people favour the crooks?

There's Jesse James and Bonnie and Clyde. In Britain, there's Robin Hood. It seems that there's a socialist twist to stealing. If it's done to big government or multi-nationals, it's OK.

However, let it be known; God's standards apply equally to all persons.

Don't take my word for it, let's be like the Bereans.

Is there a bad influence out there?

John 10: 10 - The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

& the devil takes pleasure in corrupting as many as he can, to be like him.

Leviticus 6: 1 to 5 - And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.

Exodus 21: 16 - And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.

Leviticus 19: 11 - Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

Leviticus 19: 13 - Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

Leviticus 19: 35 & 36 - Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Amos 8: 4 to 6 - Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

Malachi 3: 8 & 9 - Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say,

Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Matthew 19: 18 & 19 - He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 21: 13 - And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Mark 7: 21 to 23 - For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

John 12: 6 NKJV - This he (Judas Iscariot) said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

There are many current situations; let's just breeze through some of them.

Robbing God

Malachi 3: 10 - Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Romans 12: 1 & 2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Luke 17: 9 - Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

1 Corinthians 16: 15 - I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

At Work and in business, the areas are employers, employees, & customers. How many pilfer or steal time?

Colossians 3: 22 to 25 - Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Leviticus 19: 13 - Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

This even applies to companies who with-hold benefits from their workers.

Government

Mark 12: 14 to 17 - And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it. And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's. And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

Remember tax avoidance is legal, tax evasion is not.

There is a real challenge for believers in these hard days, in supporting their families without crossing over the line.

Family - fidelity, time

Exodus 20: 14 - Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Be careful how much the world infiltrates into your families.

Most of the sources of interest are not godly, and will compromise your efforts to raise a God fearing family.

1 John 2: 15 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Are there any examples of how things should work?

Titus 2: 1 to 8 - But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

When dealing with others, what happens? Is there idle gossip that destroys reputations? Proverbs 11: 13 - A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

Proverbs 18: 8 - The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Cyber bullying is the latest problem, and some have even committed suicide because of it.

Be careful of those who control you, by making many unreasonable demands, and expecting you to appease them.

Watch out for con-artists, many of the best profess to be christian. They are using their faith as a snare to get you. Watch out for the fraudsters who promise that God will give you lots of money, if you give them all yours.

Sucker!

Matthew 23: 14 - Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Then there are those who are jealous of what God has given to His Faithful, and steal from them. In "Reverse the Curse in Your Life", the dedication was to Win Worley, who pioneered much in deliverance, and from whom many others have taken without giving proper credit.

That crowd is still around, and even claim that God told them to do it.

What are God's people supposed to do?

Matthew 10: 7 & 8 - And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Luke 10: 7 - And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

What is God's standard?

Matthew 5: 48 - Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

What shall we do?

Luke 3: 13 NKJV - And he said to them, Collect no more than what is appointed for you.

Ephesians 4: 28 - Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

1 Thessalonians 4: 6 - That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

Even Agur prayed for help.

Proverbs 30: 7 to 9 - Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty

nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

And a personal revival is needed.

2 Chronicles 7: 14 - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

And seek Our Lord Jesus' help in the restoration process.

1 John 1: 9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

With the Holy Spirit leading us along the highway of holiness, our new life in Christ will develop.

John 10: 10 NKJV - The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Old habits will have to be changed.

Ephesians 4: 28 - Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

And being in deliverance, there is more that we can do.

When tempted with ungodly desires; we take them captive to the obedience of Our Lord, and bind them to His Authority.

We must get those demons cast out of us, in Jesus' Name, and by His Blood.

The challenge is similar to that of the Puritans; how to put our faith in action, and to re-built the greatest nation in the world.

Pastor T. John Franklin

Church of Salvation, Healing, and Deliverance

COS-HAD.org