



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - October 30, 2011

Sermon

10 Commandments:

"The Eighth Commandment"

Exodus 20:15

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 10/31/11

Exodus 20:15

Surely this commandment is intended more for thieves and robbers than it is for me, right? I am not a thief, so how in the world could this commandment have anything to do with me? What things could I be accused of stealing? What about thoughts and ideas? Have you ever written a paper and not given proper credit to a quotation or thought? What about stealing music? Have you ever downloaded music illegally? Stealing time is another way this commandment might speak to us. Surely this commandment does speak to us, right?

Tuesday 11/1/11

Luke 18:20

Jesus knew the commandments and he knew them well. In fact, in this story Jesus repeats some of the Ten Commandments. But why did he only include these specific commandments? Do they have anything in common? Yes they do! These commandments are all about relational commandments between people. When we live and work with others there are certain ways we should conduct our relations with others around us. Respecting and valuing others helps us not only be good neighbors, but also helps us keep these commandments. We would never think of stealing from a friend.

Wednesday 11/2/11

Exodus 22:1

These words of scripture provide how stealing is to be punished and replaced. Look at the high demands placed on one who steals. If you steal an ox and sell it or kill it, you have to return five oxen to the owner. If you steal and sell or slaughter a sheep, you must repay it by giving four back. This is steep punishment, indeed, all with the goal of discouraging stealing. Do not steal!



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Consider what this commandment has to do with me?

Think about things I steal from others.

Thursday 11/3/11
Leviticus 19:13

These words seem to be intended for business owners and bosses. "...and don't fail to pay your workers at the end of each day." It sounds like if the boss doesn't follow this instruction it is like stealing from the employee. Fair is fair, and if a salary or wage is promised, then it must be paid out equitably. Stealing is not only taking what isn't ours, but it is also not giving what is rightfully someone else's. Be fair to others and don't steal from them.

Friday 11/4/11
Joshua 7:1

God claimed ownership of everything in Jericho, but Achan took some things from Jericho for himself. Sometimes it is just plain hard to resist taking something we like. Have you ever gotten caught with your hand in the cookie jar? God was made with the whole Israelite nation because one of them disobeyed this commandment about stealing. Do not take what is someone else's or anything that is God's!

Saturday 11/5/11
John 12:6

Even Jesus' disciples were not immune from breaking the Ten Commandments. In this verse we discover that Judas, who took care of the money, did not care for the poor and would sometimes steal from the moneybag! If one of Jesus' own disciples was not immune to breaking this commandment, then why do we think we are? Oh, sure, we could say that we are nothing like Judas, who later betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver; but are we really? Do we ever steal in the form of taxes? Be careful lest we fall into the trap without being aware of it!