

EIGHTH WORD OF GRACE: **A LIFE OF INTEGRITY**

Exodus 20.15

"You shall not steal." Exodus 20.15

When the text says we should not steal, it is prohibiting the taking of someone else's property. The Bible has a great deal to say about stealing.

WHAT IS AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER?

"Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?'

'Why do you ask me about what is good?' Jesus replied. 'There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.'

'Which ones?' the man inquired.

Jesus replied, 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, 'Who then can be saved?'

Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" Matthew 19.16-26

Matthew 21.13; Luke 23.32-43

WHY IS THEFT WRONG?

WHY ARE WE TEMPTED TO STEAL?

1 Timothy 6.9-10; Matthew 13.22; Mark 4.19; Luke 8.14

HOW SHALL WE THEN STEAL?

It is difficult to confine oneself to a short list of the ways theft is carried out in today's world. One man said that the various methods of thieves "could inspire several encyclopedias...The facility with which they carry out these misdeeds is astonishing – and it is still more astonishing how passively the world accepts it."

Isaiah 58.6-7

Amos 5.11-12; 6.4-6; 8.4-6

Leviticus 19.13; Psalm 37.21; Romans 13.6, 7; Malachi 3.8

IT IS A LIFESTYLE CHOICE

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

So when you give to the needy...

And when you pray...

When you fast..." Matthew 6.1-18; Ephesians 4.20-24, 28; Luke 19.1-10