

Commandment # 8: Thou Shalt Not Steal

This is found in Exodus 20: 15

Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

What does it mean to steal?

To steal for this lesson's sake, means to take something intentionally that is not yours and that you don't have permission to take.

What We Are Not Talking About:

Sometimes stealing is accidental as in taking pens after you ask for them and not remembering to return them. This is a common and wrong thing, but not what we are talking about unless you don't return them or offer to. Stealing means other things not relating to what we are talking about as in going away in secret “to steal away”. Sometimes stealing is a positive thing as in sports like baseball, basketball, or even kind of like an interception in

football. These are also not related because these are in the rules for these sports and is legal and positive—not to mention encouraged for the defensive side in these sports. If someone steals your heart—you fall in love. This is yet another thing that is unrelated.

What we are talking about actually for this lesson's sake, is more commonly known as theft.

What we are talking about is mostly more sinister and malicious. We are going to use the example of a car theft ring. This is where a group of people are working together to steal cars a lot of times sharing the plunder for their crimes and selfish gains. Theft is sometimes not like that, but it has most of the time the same reasons. We are using this example to show the act in general mostly—theft is theft.

Now, there is one kind of theft that is wrong, but it is more understandable (in a positive sense) on the reasoning of why it happens; this is the kind of theft when the thief steals for a need like hunger.

Take a look at this unfortunate creature here in a clip from Power Rangers Time Force: **Trip Takes A Stand.**

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Steal1.webm

This creature's name is Notocon and he is in this show's version of jail (a cryogenic chamber) because of stealing food, as no one would be nice to him and feed him (he is very different from everyone else).

Would you be brave enough to help him?

In this case, once he is out of this frozen jail, he will have the same problems he has had unless someone takes time for him.

In reality, this is more common a theft than what people realize and it shouldn't happen. I've heard

the “Well, if he would have asked it would have been different” remarks before, sadly I don't know if this request falls on listening ears much. People are interested in profit and money talks.

The Bible is clear with this kind of theft. Look at Proverbs 6:30-31

Pro 6:30 A thief isn't despised if he steals to meet his needs when he is hungry,

Pro 6:31 but when he is discovered, he must restore seven-fold, forfeiting the entire value of his house.

This kind of punishment is unlikely nowadays, but this is the Jewish law in Levitical times.

Restitution is a lot of times the sentence and maybe a little jail time—but usually just restitution and/or a fine at worst, however I have seen a lot of kindness come out of this kind of situation sometimes too. Unfortunately, this kind of human aid doesn't come usually until this kind of theft is committed, partially because people don't look into situations like this until they have to—it's ugly to

look at.

I have also heard about people stealing Bibles because they've never had one before, then becoming Christians. This is also stealing for a need (a spiritual one).

But now, back to the kind of theft of study. We are going to watch a series of clips from the Power Rangers In Space episode: **A Ranger Among Thieves**.

Clip # 1: **Power Rangers In Space: A Ranger Among Thieves**.

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Steal2.webm

What do you see in this clip?

This person named Chuck, thinks he's pretty smart

and clever; he is a pick-pocket and steals money from a young man's bag. He is bragging about the cops not knowing and his friends think he is cool looks like. Chuck is talking indirectly about stealing the van that Adelle is reporting about.

Clip # 2: Power Rangers In Space: A Ranger Among Thieves

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Steal3.webm

What do you see in this clip?

Chuck is a car thief definitely. This looks like even the same victim possibly. To me he was definitely talking earlier about the stolen “Surf Spot” van.

Unfortunately, Andros (Red Ranger) is naive and thinks that this car belongs to Chuck.

In this case, Andros helped steal the car, but by no

fault of his own.

The scriptures don't talk about cars, but it does talk about accidental sin.

Lev 4:27 "If any of the common people of the land inadvertently sins by disobeying one of the LORD's commands that should not be violated, he will be guilty.

Lev 4:28 When the sin that he committed is disclosed to him, he is to bring his offering for his sin that he had committed: a female goat without defect.

Lev 4:29 He is to lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it at the place for burnt offering.

Lev 4:30 Then the priest is to take blood with his finger, put it on the horn of the altar that is used for burnt offerings, and then pour the rest of the blood at the base of the altar.

Lev 4:31 He is to remove all the fat, just as the fat was removed from the sacrifice for peace offering. Then the priest is to burn it on the altar as a

pleasing aroma to the LORD. This is how the priest will make atonement for him. It will be forgiven him.

Unfortunately, Andros did commit accidental theft. Thankfully, we live in the covenant of grace. Repenting for sin is as simple as sincere prayer and a wiser heart.

Clip # 3 Power Rangers In Space: A Ranger Among Thieves

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Steal4.webm

What do you see in this clip?

Andros stops a young man that seems to be in the theft ring named Mikey and then says he can't stand a thief; ironically, Andros is in the car that was stolen with 3 other thieves.

Clip # 4 Power Rangers In Space: A Ranger Among Thieves

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Steal5.webm

If Andros can't stand a thief, you have to understand that God doesn't take too kindly to thieves either that are unrepentant.

Let's look at the Bible passage in Proverbs 6: 16-19

Pro 6:16 Here are six things that the LORD hates—seven, in fact, are detestable to him:

Pro 6:17 Arrogant eyes, a lying tongue and hands shedding innocent blood;

Pro 6:18 a heart crafting evil plans, feet running swiftly to wickedness,

Pro 6:19 a false witness snorting lies, and someone sowing quarrels between brothers.

Chuck, in this latest clip especially is several of these things that God hates and detests; he is arrogant, he is a lying tongue, his heart crafts evil plans and enjoys stealing. Chuck also looks like he could become violent if he doesn't get what he wants. David does try to calm Chuck down, but you can tell he's mad.

The monster of this episode, named Voltage Hog, appears and goes after Chuck; you would think this would scare him straight.

Clip # 5 Power Rangers In Space: A Ranger Among Thieves

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Steal6.webm

What do you see in this clip?

Chuck proves to be a coward and runs while his accomplices (Suzie and David) help Andros with

the fight. I think this is the turning point for these two because their friend is not seen as cool anymore as you will see. The two accomplices in the thefts are actually pretty good friends who now have been scared straight. Circumstances sometimes change attitudes.

Clip # 6 Power Rangers In Space: A Ranger Among Thieves

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Steal7.webm

What do you see in this clip?

Chuck was not scared straight at all, but he lost two friends, got arrested for the carjackings and probably (if not already), will ruin his life with a criminal record and pattern unless God reaches him and whatever discipline he receives is accepted and his mistakes learned from.

Adelle is definitely the forgiving type, just like Jesus.

Look at Luke 6: 27-36; 23: 32-43

Luk 6:27 "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.

Luk 6:28 Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who insult you.

Luk 6:29 If someone strikes you on the cheek, offer him the other one as well, and if someone takes your coat, don't keep back your shirt, either.

Luk 6:30 Keep on giving to everyone who asks you for something, and if anyone takes what is yours, do not insist on getting it back.

Luk 6:31 Whatever you want people to do for you, do the same for them.

Luk 6:32 "If you love those who love you, what thanks do you deserve? Why, even sinners love those who love them.

Luk 6:33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks do you deserve? Even sinners do that.

Luk 6:34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to get something back, what thanks do you

deserve? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back what they lend.

Luk 6:35 Rather, love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind even to ungrateful and evil people.

Luk 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

This effectively turns a theft into a gift and enemies into friends. If someone steals and it's turned into a gift, then it is no longer theft. There's also an old saying—The best way to destroy an enemy is to become friends. This is not to say that this should happen all the time because that friendship might have with it bad life choices or principles. When it comes to what we are talking about, it means that you are building bridges for ministry later even with a thief or any other kind of sinner. This doesn't include agreeing to or helping in bad lifestyle, habits, choices etc.

Luk 23:32 Two others, who were criminals, were also led away to be executed with Jesus.

Luk 23:33 When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Luk 23:34 Jesus kept saying, "Father, forgive them, because they don't know what they're doing." Then they divided his clothes among them by throwing dice.

Luk 23:35 Meanwhile, the people stood looking on. The leaders were mocking him by saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!"

Luk 23:36 The soldiers also made fun of Jesus by coming up and offering him sour wine,

Luk 23:37 saying, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!"

Luk 23:38 There was also an inscription over him written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: "This is the King of the Jews."

Luk 23:39 Now one of the criminals hanging there kept insulting him, "You are the Messiah, aren't you? Save yourself and us!"

Luk 23:40 But the other criminal rebuked him,
"Aren't you afraid of God, since you are suffering
the same penalty?"

Luk 23:41 We have been condemned justly,
because we are getting what we deserve for what
we have done, but this man has done nothing
wrong."

Luk 23:42 Then he went on to plead, "Jesus,
remember me when you come into your kingdom!"

Luk 23:43 Jesus told him, "I tell you with certainty,
today you will be with me in Paradise."

Adelle exemplifies what and who Jesus is in more
ways than one. She not only forgives these two,
but she trusts them with the very thing they took.
These two now have honest jobs.

Look at this last clip for our theft section of the Ten
Commandments. It's from the DuckTales episode:
The Pearl Of Wisdom.

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Steal8.webm

What do you see in this clip?

There is a big fight for this pearl at the end of this episode which is where this clip is from. The sun comes up which symbolizes enlightenment in itself and the pearl gives them good advice that they'll remember long after the pearl would be out of their hands. What strikes me is that the pirate is convicted about stealing and that he could land in jail if he doesn't stop doing it. Scrooge generally will take something as treasure for profit and he is convicted about this very thing so he is going to think about making fair deals for what he wants and the pirate named Sharky probably will no longer be a thief.

This is what the Bible says about our thieves in these shows—the pearl is right on the money.

Look at I Corinthians 6: 9-11, Galations 6: 7-8, and Ephesians 4: 28

1Co 6:9 You know that wicked people will not inherit the kingdom of God, don't you? Stop deceiving yourselves! Sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, 1Co 6:10 thieves, greedy people, drunks, slanderers, and robbers will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 That is what some of you were! But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah and by the Spirit of our God.

Gal 6:7 Stop being deceived; God is not to be ridiculed. A person harvests whatever he plants:

Gal 6:8 The person who sows through human means will harvest decay from human means, but

the person who sows in the Spirit will harvest eternal life from the Spirit.

Eph 4:28 The thief must no longer steal but must work hard and do what is good with his own hands, so that he might earn something to give to the needy.

Adelle put the two accomplices on the right track just like the pearl did for Scrooge and Sharky. Jesus is definitely exemplified in the fact that forgiveness in Adelle's heart goes above and beyond, she's helping these young people do honest hard work with their hands and they likely will be productive members of society. They just need to stay out of influences like Chuck was.

Adelle gave these two the gift of a second chance just like Jesus everyday. Suzie, and David will know what doing the right thing is like which is one of the first steps before salvation. Eventually, they might be a pair of saints (sinners saved by grace), rather than just sinners that don't know the

Lord yet. The Lord is gracious to forgive. In this covenant of grace, only repentant prayer in Christ is necessary and then a changed life is born. God will keep working through our mistakes and sins (we will learn our lessons through it all) and keep us on the right track (Christ will keep forgiving as we confess our sins and mistakes, God will make sure He keeps convicting and forgiving) Jesus is our intercessor. We just need to trust in this forgiving and keeping power of Christ Jesus our Lord.