

Do Not Steal

Just like the Israelites, there are lowercase-g gods all around us, influencing our priorities, our morality, even our eternity. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He wasn't just handing down a list of do's and don'ts, He was providing a plan to battle the lowercase-g gods in our lives.



INTRODUCTION

God commands us not to steal, as theft worships the god of selfishness and makes us resemble our enemy. Instead, He calls us to be faithful stewards of that which belongs to Him. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God through which we can honor Him, trust His plan for our lives, and love others.

STARTER QUESTION

1. Pastor David described stealing as a shortcut to getting what we want. Have you ever taken a shortcut that ended up being less than rewarding? Conversely, have you ever avoided a shortcut and experienced a reward because of your integrity?

INTO THE WORD

2. In Psalm 24:1, we learn that everything belongs to God, and we are just stewards of what He gives us. If someone steals from another person, who is he or she actually stealing from?
3. Read Proverbs 20:17. How can theft of any kind (extortion, not tithing, debt, idleness, gossip, etc.) seem innocent or appealing, yet eventually serve to harm the thief?
4. Read Matthew 6:19-21. What does Jesus say about earthly treasures in these verses, and what does He tell us we ought to treasure instead? How does what we treasure affect our hearts, and ultimately our actions?

APPLICATION

5. How can you be a good steward of that which God has given you?
6. Pastor David said that gossip is a form of robbery because it steals a person's reputation. Have you ever been hurt by gossip? How can you replace gossip with words/actions that honor others instead?
7. After hearing this sermon, can you think of any instances in your own life in which you were guilty of theft (in any sense of the word) without knowing it? How might you correct this behavior going forward?

PRAYER

Father God, we thank You for Your provision and for entrusting us with Your possessions on earth. We pray that You will help us to be faithful stewards who bring glory to You through our generosity and integrity. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.