

Satan's Eden no 180
The Marriage Covenant #8
(The Eighth Commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Steal")
Sunday, August 11, 2024
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Let us remain standing while we read from the Word of God. **Exodus 20:15**
Thou shalt not Steal.

Let us pray...

This morning we will take our text from **Exodus 20:15** *Thou shalt not Steal*. This will be number **8** in our Marriage Covenant series and we shall deal with the Eighth Commandment, *Thou Shalt Not Steal*.

As we have stated with each sermon in this series, I would like to remind you that we have found the Ten Commandments are not ten laws which God has thrown our way to keep us in line.

Nor are they ten laws that God demands from us to test our desire for righteousness, nor will they make us Holy by obeying them.

The Ten Commandments were given for establishing and maintaining our relationship with God. And since they are considered by most to be the foundation of the law, let me remind you that the law comes from the Hebrew word Torah and it means the instructions of the father.

Therefore they are not meant to be in the legal sense of the word, "**the Law**" but rather a recipe for a better relationship. Now, as we know if you leave one ingredient off from a recipe, you may have a disaster.

Therefore they are "**Ten Laws of Relationship**". And as such a good relationship is as dependent upon these rules for relationship, as the law of gravity is to gravity itself, and understanding the law of Life to understand the importance of seed.

Therefore, this morning we will look at rule number eight, *Thou shalt not Steal*. Now, you might be asking yourself about now, "What in the world does stealing

have to do with your marriage Vow? Well, By the Grace of God, we will find out this morning.

I believe with my whole heart that these 10 commandments are not ten laws to live by but are ten rules for establishing and maintaining a good relationship.

And let's face it, even if we look at stealing in the simplest of terms, we must ask ourselves, **"What relationship could be established and maintained if one of the two parties can not trust the other with their personal possessions?"**

If one of the parties takes advantage of the other, and is looking out for their own benefit and not for the benefit of the union? No marriage can last under a selfish self-centered atmosphere. After all, are not the two supposed to be one?

And there are only a few reasons why a person steals. The word Steal used in our text is a Hebrew **ganab** which sounds like the English words, **"gonna grab"** which is "going to grab".

And it has several meanings just as our own English equivalent does. Therefore let's list them:

1) The first definition of the word steal means to take what does not belong to you and we find it used first in **Genesis 31:19** *And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.*

This is the first and most common use for the word steal. However, there is another meaning for the word steal which has to do with being sneaky and we use it in the word stealth.

We see this used in the very next verse of scripture. **Genesis 31:20** *And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled.*

Again we see this usage in verse **26 & 27**... *And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me, and carried away my daughters, as captives taken with the sword?*

27 *Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp?*

In **Leviticus 19:11** it tells us, ¶ *Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.*

Webster Defines the word "*Steal*" as "*to take or appropriate another's property, ideas etc. without permission, dishonestly, or unlawfully, especially in a secret or surreptitious manner.*"

"Jesus said, "*You will know them by their fruits.*"

We read in **Matthew 7:16** *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. You shall know them by their fruits?

Then if they steal, they are a thief. Then the question we must ask is this. Does a person steal and therefore they become a thief, or are they a thief and therefore they steal.?

Therefore, I would like to ask you, what fruits, or what attributes, do we recognize in a person who steals? Think about that for a moment.

In other words, stealing is not the real issue, but the underlying problem goes much deeper than that. Why does a person steal? Are they thinking about others or just themselves? Are **they other**-purposed or self-centric?

What attributes does a person who steals possess? What can we say about that person? We might begin by saying that person is not very what? What word are we looking for here?

Dishonest: meaning not honest *implies the act of or practice of telling a lie or cheating, deceiving, stealing etc.*

Deceitful *implies an intent to make someone believe what is not true, as by giving a false appearance, using fraud, etc.*

How many marriages go by the wayside because one partner is not honest with the other. We might say, "she was cheating on him."

That means she was stealing someone else's Love, someone else's affection, someone else's virtue, and hiding the fact from her husband. But there are other ways of cheating on the husband besides infidelity.

In **Ephesians** chapter **5:25** the Apostle Paul said, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*"

Now the Word "*Even as*" implies in the same measure or proportion as. And Paul qualifies this statement in verse **25** by another in vs **28 & 29**.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Notice Paul is telling us that if you love your wife properly, you will love her as much as or in the same measure that you love your own self.

Then he tells us that *if we love we will nourish and cherish*. And to nourish means: 1. (v.) *To foster the development of: · patronize · develop · encourage · guide · nurse along · promote · further · nurture · advance*

2. (v.) *To work and care for: · attend · feed · look after · minister to · maintain · provide for · serve · support · sustain care of · wait upon · keep*

5. (v.) *To hold or cultivate in the mind or heart: · cherish · harbor · bear · carry · take · To cling to*. And isn't that exactly what God said for man to do?

Genesis 2:24 *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

And Paul said not only should we nourish her, but we should cherish her. And the word cherish means: 1. (v.) *To like or enjoy enthusiastically, often excessively: · adore · idolize · worship · dote.*

And Paul said of her in, **Ephesians 5:33** *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

And that is what the word cherish also implies, · *revere love · glorify · relish · revel in · dote upon · be infatuated with and it is the opposite of · to loathe · or despise · or abhor · or hate.*

But in a greater way, it means to recognize the value of: · *appreciate · esteem · hold dear · praise · prize · respect · revere · reverence · treasure · value.*

Proverbs 31:10 ¶ *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.***11** *The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

In other words, if he truly trusts her then he does not have to worry that she is out for self, and is out to steal what he has earned and shares with her.

12 *She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.* He does not have to worry about her turning on him, because they are supposed to be one.

But what if she has ulterior motives and is only using him to make enough money so she can hide her motives that she has for someone else.

Then if we are known by our fruits, she will be found out for what she truly is as a self centered person not trying to protect his assets, which he willingly accrued up for them, but is out to diminish these assets in favor of her own.

Then of course she is not a virtuous woman after all. You see in speaking of a virtuous woman, he says...**13** *She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.*

So she is contributing to this shared wealth as well.

14 *She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.* **15** *She riseth also while it is yet night,*

You see a virtuous woman doesn't think of herself, she makes sacrifice of herself for her family. She is not self-centric, but thinks of her household first. She doesn't sleep in while he goes off the work, she lives for her family.

and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. 16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

She is more of a giver than taker. She is not dependent upon him for her sole income, she makes money to support the cause. Not just a spender of his but she contributes as well.

17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good:

She knows the value of hard work and the goods she tends to. *Her candle goeth not out by night.* She is up late but she is not idle.

19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
(spindle)

20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

You can see by her fruits she is not out for herself, but has an eye out for those who have less.

She is never concerned with her own well being, but that of others. Show me a woman who is always trying to help others, and I will show you someone with Eternal life, because the Prophet said "Eternal life is living for others."

Why do you think at the white throne, if they do not come up bride they go in because of their living for others?

Jesus said, *"Whatsoever you have done unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."*

Are not those the words of our Saviour himself? And they are not even aware what they are doing unto him.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. 22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing [is] silk and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

She doesn't try to compete with him, she cares not for her reputation, but for his. She does not set herself up by putting others down.

24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

She is not competing with the merchant but knows her value is in making goods for them to sell.

25 Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. 26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

She doesn't downgrade or try to humiliate her husband to make herself look better, she willingly takes the lower seat, that is what honor does. When I think of these attributes I think of my mother-in-law.

27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband [also], and he praiseth her.

Again I think of my mother-in-law who treated everyone with respect even those who deserved none. And they loved her and more came to her funeral than many ministers.

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. 30 Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

And I think that sums up the reason she is the way she is, because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and all these other attributes.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works (Fruits) **praise her in the gates.**

Now, the opposite of *to cherish is to · belittle · scorn · disdain.*

But rather *to cherish her* is to (v.) *To feel deep, devoted love for: · adore · carry a torch for · (dote on for) · hold dear · love · revere (deep respect · treasure*

Now, in getting back to the thief, the one who steals, we have several other attributes that we might view in them.

We might also say they are **Untrustworthy, Unreliable, or Sneaky** And we might call the deal they pulled a shady deal. Or say that person has a dubious character.

But why does a person steal? Why does a person use stealth to take what does not belong to them? And the underlying answer is because they are very Selfish. So they sound like most politicians to me.

Selfishness in the marriage is one of the greatest contributing factors in the dissolution of any marriage.

Marriage is like a three-legged race, and if you are not running in step with each other, you will end up bringing the other one down with you.

The slogans we hear so much of today is "**Have it your way**", and "**you've come a long way baby**" which completely leave out the other half in a marriage.

Yes, they have come a long way, they've come a long way from being a virtuous woman.

You can't be looking out for number one and have a successful marriage. Because to look out for number one is a selfish attitude and says, "*I get mine first before I give to him or her*".

I've seen quite a few marriages like that, and they never work. There is always an underlying resentment, and as we said, before, if the needs are not met in the marriage they will be met outside the marriage.

And usually, it ends up with her going out and getting herself a job just to have some spending money of her own.

I have performed over a dozen marriages over the years and with each I have sat the couple down for counseling and we have covered these basic essentials.

The real problem is when the couple does not listen and take to heart these things. I think one of the major reasons for marriage difficulties is because of this very reason.

The problem is that I think the younger couples are getting it, but it seems like some of the older couples would do good to practice this in their marriages.

I know firsthand several couples who have had a bad case of selfishness in their marriage which started with the man, and the wife felt in order to have a few things, they needed to get a job to have some money for themselves.

This one bad attribute of selfishness in the husband not only spoiled their marriage, but eventually destroyed their children as well. In order to have a few extra's momma decided to get herself a job.

Then when her children came home from school there was no one there to give direction and guidance and the children started to hang out and pretty soon they began to run with the wrong crowd.

Or they were babysat by a wrong influence on the television.

And before you know it, the whole family has left church and you would even question whether they even believe the message anymore.

From **Jesus keeps all of His appointments 0418E E-59** Brother Branham said: *You know, a lot of times we think about juvenile delinquency. I think a whole lot of it is **parent delinquency**.*

If the kids had been taught to pray, and serve God, instead of mama out somewhere at a card party (in her religious card party), and dad out at a golf course somewhere, and sister out with junior, out there on the street, and running around and...

Maybe things would've been different if they'd had the old-fashion prayer altar, the Bible instead of a deck of cards, and thrown that television out the door a long time ago. It might've been a whole lot different.

You all used to be wrong to go to the picture show. The devil put it right over on us; he brought it right in our house.

So selfishness will not only destroy a marriage but it destroys families as well.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit 58-0928M 101 *And then this young generation running around smoking, drinking, and everything, **how do you expect another generation to exist?***

The reason we got sin, the juvenile delinquency now, the reason we got little girls on the street, and little boys is because their mothers and daddies did what they did in the bygone age.

And the reason we still got preachers who'll stand for truth, the reason we still got some old fashion girls is because they had old fashion parents back behind them. That's exactly right.

We still got preachers that stands uncompromising with any denomination or the Word is because that we had old fashion preachers in the back stood right on the same grounds. Yes.

Notice it all comes down to the motives. And the motives are your motives for stealing. We see several in the scriptures.

Deuteronomy 24:9 *If a man be found stealing any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and maketh merchandise of him, or selleth him; then that thief shall die; and thou shalt put evil away from among you.*

Let us pray.