

The Marriage Covenant #8

(The Eighth Commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Steal")

Sunday November 5, 2000

Let us remain standing while we read from the Word of God.

EXODUS 20:15 *Thou shalt not Steal.*

Let us pray. Dear Father, we come before your great Presence this morning in thanksgiving for your wonderful Word of reconciliation which you have personally brought to us through your Divine Presence Among us. We thank you for Your Message, For the Shout, and for vindicating that Message by Your Presence among us. Help us to receive all that you have for us, and help us in our hearts to draw closer to thee through the study of Thy Word, for we ask these things in the precious name of your obedient Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

This morning we will take our text from **EXODUS 20:15** *Thou shalt not Steal*. This will be number 7 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 righteous, nor will they make us Holy by obeying them.. The Ten Commandments were given for establishing and maintaining our relationship with God. Therefore they are “Ten laws of Relationship”.

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. 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 atmosphere.
And there are only a few reasons why a person
steals.

The word Steal used in our text is a Hebrew
ganab 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?*

LEVITICUS 19:11 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."*

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 are 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? In other words, stealing is not the real issue, but the underlying problem goes much deeper than that. Why does a person steal? 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 word are we looking for here?

- *Dishonest: implies the act of or practice of telling a lie or cheating, deceiving, stealing etc. Disceitful implies the 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. They say, he was cheating on her. That means he was stealing someone else's Love, someone else's affection, someone else's virtue, and hiding the fact from his wife. But there are other ways of cheating on the wife 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;"*

The Word "Even as" means in the same measure or proportion as. And Paul qualifies this statement in verse 25 by another in verses **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 as you love yourself. 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 · wait upon · keep · take care of
5. (v.) To hold or cultivate in the mind or heart: · cherish · harbor · bear · carry · 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, **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 · glorify · relish · revel in · dote upon · love · be infatuated with and it is the opposite of · to loathe · or despise · or abhor · or hate But rather 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. 12 She will do*

him good and not evil all the days of her life. 13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. 14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. 15 She riseth also while it is yet night, 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 17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise [is] good: her candle goeth not out by night. 19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. 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. 24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth [it]; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. 25 Strength and honour [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. 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. 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. 30 Favour [is] deceitful, and beauty [is] vain: [but] a woman [that] feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

The opposite of to cherish is to · belittle · scorn · disdain But rather to cherish her is to 3. (v.) To feel deep, devoted love for: · adore · carry a torch for ·

dote on · hold dear · love · revere (deep respect for) · 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 _____, or _____, or _____.

➤ **Untrustworthy**

➤ **Unreliable**

➤ **Sneaky**

And we might call the deal they pulled a _____ deal. Or say that person is a _____ character.

➤ **Shady**

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**

Sounds like a politician to me.

Selfishness in the marriage is one of the greatest contributing factors in the dissolvment 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 today of "Have it your way, and you've come a long way baby completely leave out the

other half in a marriage. 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 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 young couples are getting it, but it seems like some of the older couples would do good to practice this in their marriages.

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

JESUS KEEPS ALL OF HIS APPOINTMENTS 64-0418E E-59

You know, a lot of times we think about juvenile delinquency. I think a whole lot of it is parent delinquency. 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 throwed 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.

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 for stealing. We see several in the scriptures.

DEUTERONOMY 24: *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.*