

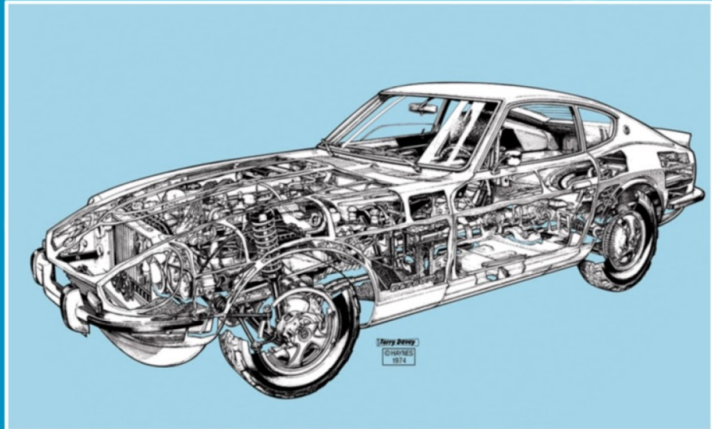
THE WAY IT WORKS

10C, 26V & 20EX



Ultimate Life Guide/Manual

20:02 thru 20:17 Commandments
1 - 10, no other, no idols, not in vain, 6-day & 1, honor, not kill,
loyal, not steal, not lie, not covet



The Way it Works — Do Not Steal

Sermon Discussion Questions – October 22, 2023

Scripture Passages:

Joshua 6:4–5 (NIV84) ⁴ Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵ When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in."

Joshua 6:17–18 (NIV84) ¹⁷ The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸ But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.

Joshua 7:20–21 (NLT) ²⁰ Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. ²¹ Among the plunder I saw a beautiful robe from Babylon, 200 silver coins, and a bar of gold weighing more than a pound. I wanted them so much that I took them. They are hidden in the ground beneath my tent, with the silver buried deeper than the rest."

Joshua 7:10–11 (NLT) ¹⁰ But the Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this? ¹¹ Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen some of the things that I commanded must be set apart for me.

Exodus 20:15 (NIV84) ¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

Genesis 1:28 (NLT) ²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

James 1:17 (NIV84) ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Psalms 51:4 (NLT) ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

Luke 15:18–19 (NLT) ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. . .

Psalms 16:8–9 (NLT) ⁸ I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. ⁹ No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety.

Ephesians 4:28 (NLT) ²⁸ If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.

Luke 19:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Luke 19:8–9 (NLT) ⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!” ⁹ Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.

Warm Up:

In his message Pastor Tom talks about the game of Monopoly. What is your favorite board game to play?

Discussion:

1. Read Exodus 20:15. Why do you think God thought a commandment on stealing was important?
2. Read Genesis 1:28. Excerpt from Pastor Tom’s message:
This mandate is never removed, even after the fall. God instructs Adam and Eve to take care of it, to exercise their authority over all the rest of his creation, and it is their responsibility to be stewards but not owners of what he has given them—so all the things that we have, in the same way, we have because of God’s kindness towards us. We are stewarding what is God’s already. All that I have is God’s, not mine. We’re looking after it for a while, but it’s not mine.
What does it mean to you that we are stewards of what is God’s? How does that change the way you view your things/possessions?
3. Pastor Tom made this point: *When we steal from another person, we do not simply sin against them; we sin against God.*
How is there a direct link between stealing from others and sinning against God? How do you see this as a heart issue?

4. Pastor Tom said: *Ultimately, we don't believe in a God who has authority over creation, or if we do, we don't believe that he should have authority over us.*
Where do you find yourself in this statement? Do you see this statement true in your life? Why?
5. Pastor Tom gave us two application points today:
 - *Our confidence is found in God's timing and provision.*
 - *The essence of stealing is getting. The essence of being like Jesus is giving.*What do these statements mean to you personally? How do these points fit into your own life? What do you need to do to make these statements true in your own life if you don't believe them?
6. Read Psalm 16:8-9. How does it make you feel knowing this statement is true for you? What can we learn about God in these verses? What can we learn about how He loves us in these verses?

Next Steps:

Pastor Tom ended by telling the story of Zacchaeus, and said this:

Jesus would have told Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, if you were to work for the rest of your life and give money to everybody that walked the streets of Jericho, if you were never to steal again, if you were to labor with your hands, if you were to be zealous with your mind, you could never, Zacchaeus, repay the debt that you owe to Almighty God for breaking his law. And then he would have told him, "But Zacchaeus, if you would acknowledge who you are and what you are and look to me, Zacchaeus, then you will become a new man. And as a result of becoming a new man from the inside, you will live a new life on the outside." Just surrender all.

What might God be calling you to surrender when it comes to stealing? What can you do this week to repent in your relationship with God and with others when it comes to stealing?