

YOU STOLE THAT...NO I DIDN'T...

Exodus 20:15-16

The Eighth Commandment

"You must not steal." Exodus 20:15

What it means

- It is getting something for nothing . . . and not trusting God to be generous
- It is not . . .

Why it is so important

- Old Testament lessons
 - Wilderness . . . trusting in our generous heavenly Father
 - Land of promise . . . ownership vs. stewardship
- Jesus, our treasure portfolio Matthew 6:19-24
 - Temporary or eternal
 - Determines what we see
 - Defines our master
- Jesus . . . ownership vs. stewardship Matthew 25:14-30

Living as free people

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good . . . generous to those in need . . . By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." 1 Timothy 6:17-19

The Ninth Commandment . . . what people need

"You must not testify falsely against your neighbor." Exodus 20:16

- To speak and live the truth in love

Why people need it

- Defining moments . . . under oath

- Daily moments

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven . . . or by the earth . . . or by Jerusalem . . . Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." Matthew 5:33-35,37 (NIV)

- The high cost of lying

The power to be a truth-teller

- Inadequate motivations

- Honesty pays
- Protect your reputation

- Powerful truths

- Truth is loving . . . lies destroy

- We were born from truth

"'You are a king, then!' said Pilate. Jesus answered, 'You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.' 'What is truth?' Pilate asked . . ." John 18:37-38 (NIV)

*John Stott's Daily Reflections—pages 53-60
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