

DON'T STEAL: I'VE STOLEN, NOW WHAT? – 2/13/22

GETTING OUR FEET WET- I've stolen now what?

(Don't lie- PK reported 60% of taxes go to Social Programs with 80% going to Administration. Fact, 39% SS & Medicare, 26% Health, Welfare, 20% Defense & Vet, 6% debt, 3% Educ, 6% other, of which 1-13% goes to administration costs. SS is 35% of total tax, at 1% admin cost.)

DIVING INTO SCRIPTURE

- Lev 6² "If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the LORD by deceiving a neighbor about something entrusted to them or left in their care or about something stolen, or if they cheat their neighbor, ³ or if they find lost property and lie about it, or if they swear falsely about any such sin that people may commit— ⁴ when they sin in any of these ways and realize their guilt, they must return what they have stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to them, or the lost property they found, ⁵ or whatever it was they swore falsely about. They must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner on the day they present their guilt offering. ⁶ And as a penalty they must bring to the priest, that is, to the LORD, their guilt offering, a ram from the flock, one without defect and of the proper value. ⁷ In this way the priest will make atonement for them before the LORD, and they will be forgiven for any of the things they did that made them guilty."
- Luke 19⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
- Luke 23³⁹ One of the criminals (thieves) who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

TAKING IT HOME

Step 1- Stop stealing! - Eph 4:28

Step 2- Confess- to the Lord- Lev 6:7, Zacchaeus & the thief

- Deal with the heart- setting ourselves up as _____ leads to the breaking of all 10 Commands- Jas 4:11-12

Step 3- Make restitution and add 20%- Lev 6, Num 5

Step 4- Stand in your forgiveness- Lev 6, Zach & the thief

Step 5- Go and do good- like Zach!

WRAP UP ON THE 8TH COMMANDMENT

From..	Don't Steal	But Do Good
God	Don't withhold tithes & offerings	But trust, give generously & be blessed - Mal 3
Govt.	Don't cheat on your taxes	But pay, pray & honor – Rom 13
Family	Don't steal, refuse to help – I Tim 5	But provide for kids, parents, grandparents/kids
Work	Don't take, slack, pilfer	But work hard, well, make Jesus look good- Col 3
Workers	Don't muzzle the ox	But pay fair, living wage, profit share, tip – I Tim 5
Buy-sell	Don't cheat, gouge, inflate	But charge fair prices, golden rule- treat others well- Mt 7
Others	Don't take or damage property, persons, default, mooch	But pay debts, protect, return, make restitution- Lev 6
Poor	Don't be stingy, hard hearted, proud, judgmental	But be generous, helpful, help out of debt & get them on their feet, seek justice, fair laws- Dt 15
Yourself	Don't be lazy, glutton, indulgent, inattentive	But work (minister) hard, save well, be a good steward, industrious, content - Proverbs

- ❖ WHAT'S GOD SAYING TO YOU? – write it down, pray it back, share it with others!
 "Oh Heavenly Father, I have stolen. I have been greedy, sneaky, dishonest and often judgmental. I am a thief by nature and action. Help me to start giving what belongs to You. Help me come clean, own up and get honest... like the thief on the cross & Zacchaeus. Give me the courage to make restitution, the drive to work hard, the wisdom to save well and the compassion to give generously. I especially sense You telling me..."