

November 18 & 21, 2021



21st Century Thieves

First Commandment: You shall have no other Gods before me.

Second Commandment: Don't make for yourself an idol.

Third Commandment: Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Fourth Commandment: Honor the Sabbath.

Fifth Commandment: Honor your father and mother.

Sixth Commandment: Do not commit murder.

Seventh Commandment: Do not commit adultery.

Eighth Commandment: Do not steal.

Ninth Commandment: Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Exodus 20:15-16 (NIV)

"You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

21st century thieves believe:

1. God is blind.

- God is unseen but He is not unseeing. (Proverbs 15:3)

2. What's mine is mine and what's yours is mine!

- We steal relationally when we take from someone what is not ours to take! (Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 6:16-19)
- We steal professionally when fail to give our best at work. (James 4:17; Proverbs 18:9; Colossians 3:23)
- We steal spiritually when we use our gifts solely for our gain instead of God's glory! (1 Peter 4:10; Malachi 3:8-12)

3. There is a way to gain at others expense.

Exodus 22:1 (NIV)

"Whoever steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.

Exodus 22:3b (NIV)

"Anyone who steals must certainly make restitution, but if they have nothing, they must be sold to pay for their theft.

- Stealing is a lack of trust in the provision of God!

Luke 16:10 (NIV)

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

- The tragedy of theft is that it doesn't get us ahead, only further behind.

4. Stealing is merely about taking!

Ephesians 4:28 (NIV)

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

- The opposite of stealing is generosity.

Proverbs 11:24 (NIV)

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.