

Sun., May 10 Holy Communion, Mother's Day, Drive-In Worship

2020 Ten Commandments Series: Set Free to Live Free: The 10 Commandments

Second Series: Love Others

Second Series Memory Verse: "I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts." -Psalm 119:43-44

Second Series Text: "The second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands." -Matthew 22:39-40

Second Series Scripture: Exodus 20:1-21 and Psalm 16

Message: Live Free: Do Not Steal

Memory Verse: "Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of Him." -Colossians 3:17

Scripture: Exodus 20:15, Malachi 3:8

Blurb: What did your mother teach you about stealing? Well, so does our heavenly Father! Stealing is so prevalent in our day that much of life includes measures to protect our goods, and we don't even realize how odd it is to have all this security. This Sunday we'll try to hear our mothers teach us again about what God says about our penchant to steal.

Opening Music: [Piped music over the speakers] -Pastor Andrew

As cars drive in, greeters (with gloves and face masks) greet cars at both parking lot entrances. They 1. Hand out a bulletin, 2. Hand out a written script (if desired), 3. Hand out Holy Communion elements (one for each person in the car), 4. Guide people to park every other parking spot, 5. Remind people to roll windows down, and 6. Ask people to please turn their car engines off.

Welcome -Pastor David

Mother's Day! Drive in worship.

Holy Communion - we celebrate open Communion (open to all).

Memory Verse -Pastor David

"Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of Him." -Colossians 3:17

Worship Music Set -Sanctify (acoustic)

Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)

Glory to Glory

Blessed Are All (Only in Jesus)

Worship Prayer -Pastor Andrew

Prayers: Thanking God for Our Mothers - In Honor of Mother's Day -Pastor David

Flowers will be given out to all women in cars as they leave.

Generational Bridge: “Lemuel the Lion” -Pastor Andrew & Vicky

Call to Focus: “Psalm 16:1-2, 5-11” -Pastor David

L: Protect me, God, because I take refuge in you.

P: I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord. Apart from you, I have nothing good.”

L: You, Lord, are my portion, my cup; you control my destiny.

P: The property lines have fallen beautifully for me; yes, I have a lovely home.

L: I will bless the Lord who advises me; even at night I am instructed in the depths of my mind.

P: I always put the Lord in front of me; I will not stumble because He is on my right side.

L: That’s why my heart celebrates and my mood is joyous; yes, my whole body will rest in safety.

P: You won’t abandon my life to the grave; you won’t let your faithful follower see the pit.

L: You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration.

P: Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

Message: 10 Commandments “Live Free: No Stealing” -Pastor David

The 10 Commandments, Live Free: No Stealing. Proverbs 28:24 “Those who steal from their father and mother, and say, ‘It’s not a crime,’ are friends of vandals.”

Don’t steal from your mother!

Now, my guess is that for most of us, the very idea of stealing from our mothers is unthinkable. For most of us, our mothers are people we love deeply: we desire to treat them well, to honor them and bless them. Yet, I fear that we have stolen from them, and we still do!

We can see this better today because we are in deep into the Ten Commandments. We have heard about putting God first and honoring Him above all else. Then we heard about honoring our parents. And now we’re in “the short ones,” those two-worded ones, that are so easy to say, but so hard to live out. And all of these we have heard not just from the Bible, but from our mother’s mouths. Moms are good at those short, direct, commands: “Quit that!” “Sit down!” “Turn around!” “Straighten up!”

And these short Ten Commandments almost sound like our mothers talking. “No murdering.” “No adultery.” “No stealing.” “No coveting.” And actually, if you can hear them in your mother’s voice, it may actually help you. After all, all those commands your mother gave you were all for your own good, right? Okay, maybe the “Be quiet!” was for her own sanity, but it was also for your own good, because if you didn’t, you were going to be sorry, very soon!

And God is giving us each of these commandments, even these “short ones,” for our own good. This is the path to our best life. Say our phrase again with me: “God’s way is my best life.”

Now, maybe you’ve never been ready to physically kill someone, but your mother may have said to you, “No, you may not kill your sister.” And she has counseled you quite a bit on how not to hate someone. But today’s commandment she most certainly has spent time saying to you: don’t steal!

Mothers often share this godly commandment in three different ways.

The first way is when they teach us to not take what’s not ours. We see this in the littlest of kids. You have a red ball, and the other kid has a green ball. You like the green ball, too, and want it. So, you simply reach over and take it. See? Now you’re good. That’s people of all ages.

But then, when your friend reaches over and takes your red ball, then what? You feel violated. You’re sad: you cry. You’re angry: you scream. You grab your ball back, and, in the process, you wack your friend. That’s vengeance. And this is the fundamental and ironic reality of

people. We want to take what we want from others, but we don't want others to take what is ours. It's basic selfishness. The Bible calls this original sin.

Mothers, right from the beginning, start tackling this selfishness. So, one of the first ways our moms try to get us to understand why this is wrong is to point out how we don't like it when others take what is ours. So, you've heard this commandment, probably hundreds of times, from your mother like this: "Don't take what is not yours."

So why is it, then, that stealing is so widespread today? It is rampant! It's so pervasive.

You don't think it's quite that bad? Think a moment. Your house. Does your front door have a lock? Why? Do you have a security system? How about your windows? Do you have a fence around your yard? A dog? Do you own a handgun? How about your car? Do you lock your car? Why? A locating chip in your car, so you can find it again if, what? it gets stolen? How about your phone or device? Do you have a password? Why? How about websites...do you have passwords? Why? Your debit and credit cards....do you have a chip? How about a security code on the back? Why do you have to enter in your zip code when using it at machines?

How about stores? Security detectors, security cameras, people stationed at the front doors, ink anti-theft tag on clothes, many items behind glass cabinets? If theft were an occasional occurrence, all this wouldn't be worth it. But it's not occasional. It's common. Widespread.

It's not just by a few bad apples, either. I would even dare to say that *you and I do it, regularly*. I'll come back to this in a moment.

Thievery has been rampant throughout human history, and in all cultures. It's an enmeshed problem among people of all places, times, and cultures. The Bible records that Judas, one of Jesus' 12 disciples, regularly stole from Jesus' money purse (John 12:6).

Some people say that people are basically good in their hearts. Then why is it that we all disobey God—and our mothers—and steal regularly? Or think of the two kids with the balls.

Now, side note: the Bible affirms private property and ownership. Yes, in the New Testament, there were some communities that shared some things in common (Acts 2:44). But this was done by choice and it worked in their individual settings. God gives lots of instructions about private property and it is all built on a system of individual private ownership. You really can't argue for communism or socialism from the Bible, unless you select out just certain verses. In the Bible, others getting your stuff comes when you voluntarily give it, they are not entitled to it.

So, stealing is really about justice. Remember, God is just? Justice is things being the way they ought to be, being as God intended. It is a violation of a person to take what is theirs. It takes away their autonomy, their self-determination, their dignity, their humanity. It does not acknowledge that they are made in God's image and are worth you treating them as real. It violates God, who created them, and violates their mothers, who have presented them as people of sacred worth into our world.

So, we must stop stealing, you and I! Yes, we steal. I know you don't want me to go here, but here I go. After the last two Sundays, why stop now?

Do you report accurately on your taxes everything you are supposed to? Yes, I went there! I come out swinging! The IRS estimates that one in four people under report on their taxes.

Was all your roof damage really from the hail? Is every dent you want fixed on your car from the accident? What about the item that rung up cheaper by mistake at the cash register? It's *their fault*, right, if it doesn't ring up accurately, right? Do you take back something to the store you've opened up and were just too lazy to check and to see if it's what you needed first? Did you know that most things returned to the store opened have to be thrown away? Do you take supplies home from work? Yes, that envelope, that bottle of water, that unused extra item.

Employers, do you steal from your employees? James 5:4-5 says that not paying your employee correctly is stealing from them. Do you make them work more than you pay them for?

Employees, do you steal from your employer? Watch it, now! Employees steal out the back door nearly six times the amount that shoplifters steal out the front. If you're an employer, you know this. But the biggest area of our stealing from our employer is...time. Any of you ever wasted time at work? According to Salary.com, the average employee wastes a over two hours a day. So, you're getting paid for eight hours, but only putting in six hours worth of work.

44% of our wasted time is on the Internet: Social media, surfing, reading the news, watching fat cat videos (you know, finding the funniest cat video, then sending it to your coworkers so that they can waste work hours as well). Most employees spend one hour a work day surfing.

Tell me, what would your mother say if she agreed to pay you \$20 per hour for eight hours to paint her house, and then she came out and caught you surfing on your phone for an hour? What would she do? She would tell you she's not going to pay you for that hour. Yet that's what we do to our employer every day!

Linkedin. My employeeer is paying me to look for another job. My guess is that your new employer wouldn't want you if you used work time to find their job!

23% of our wasted time is socializing. Rather than working, you tell your coworker about what you bought last night, what your spouse did, or what your neighbors are up to. What are you doing? Not working? Me either. Let me waste both of our time. What would your mother say? Get back to work! Focus!

But it's a big company. I'm not stealing from a person. It's expected.

Let me ask you: what's the agreement? You work for a certain number of hours on things that are related to the business, and they pay you a determined amount. Are you keeping up your part of the bargain? What is your Christian witness to your coworkers? Is this what a Christian looks like?

What if you get your work done? What would your mother say? Then go find something else to do! You can always clean something!

Colossians 3:17 says, "Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of Him." So, are you working in a way that honors Jesus? If Jesus were your boss, would you do your work differently? If so, then you are stealing!

If your boss is difficult, so be it. You do your part. Your Christian witness is at stake. And think a minute: Do you want to work with someone who behaves like you? Don't you want to work with someone who is positive, doesn't gripe all the time, gets the job done, and pulls their weight?

Do your best work! Sounds like something your mother would say.

So, do not steal: #1. Don't take what doesn't belong to you.

The second way your mother teaches you this commandment is by telling you *to share*. What does the mother say to the kids fighting over red and green balls? "Why don't you both learn to share?" Yes, it is yours, but the better good is to share what is yours with others. Again, this is voluntary, offered by the owner, not demanded by the other. "Mom, Mark won't share with me!"

And this is linked to a deeper biblical truth about ownership. Yes, the Bible supports personal ownership, but then calls the God-follower to remember that everything he or she owns actually belongs to God. We are only stewards of what we have. So, rather than getting too tight-fisted with our stuff, God reminds us that we are stewards.

Of what God grants us in life—yes, even by the toil of our own effort that God allows and enables us—God says that we should keep only 90% for our own use. Ten percent of our earned income we are told to share with God's people through God's work. So, God-followers who obey the Ten Commandments, do you give your tithe—a full 10% of your income—to God's work? The

average Christian today gives 2.5% of their income to God's work. Back in the Depression, during widespread poverty, Christians gave 3.3%.

Are you stealing? In Malachi 3:8, God asks, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have stolen from me!" And like us, the people ask, "Uh, how is it that we've done that, God?" So God says, "In your tithes and offerings." And this is the same in the New Testament: Peter says to Ananias for withholding his giving, "You have deceived God!" (Acts 5:4)

It's like when I give my son \$20 bucks and tell him to go get snacks for him and his friends at the movie theater. Okay, I never do this. But imagine I did. If Nathan bought himself a box of candy and pocketed the remaining \$15, is that right? At best, I want my change back, right? But God does that. He says, "Here's your 100%. Take 90% and spend it on yourself. Take 10% and spend it on your neighbors."

What would your mom say about you pocketing the rest? Don't steal! Learn to share!

God tells us to love our neighbors. The reason is that God already loves them. And part of the way that God blesses them is by giving us enough blessings to share with them. When we don't, when we don't share what God gives us and put it in our pockets, we steal from God!

And the third way our moms teach us this commandment is: to be content. Stop wanting what everyone else has! Be happy for them, don't be jealous, don't be resentful. Now, we've got a whole commandment on just this coming up, so God must think this is a big deal for us. But it is certainly part of our problem with stealing. We are not content with what we have. We want more. We have a red ball, but we see a green one. And even then, when we have a ball in each hand, we want the yellow one we see, too...even though our hands are already full! It's the wanting! Stealing starts in the heart, the selfishness. From our earliest childhood, our mothers tell us, "Learn to be happy with what you have. There will always be better things to have, but happiness comes from being content with what you have now!"

Remember, our moms are trying to teach us God's best life for us!

So, do you think others should steal from you? No, right. But yet today we realize that we all steal from others! We don't like to be stolen from, but we justify when we steal.

Our mothers have taught us God's commandment to not steal. So whenever we do, we steal from our mothers! We disobey God and our mothers, and we take from them their claim on our lives for us to live right. So, on Mother's Day, I think it's okay to keep this commandment personal: don't steal from your mother!

Well, if you're feeling convicted, then the Holy Spirit is working in your heart. Here's what you need to do: 1. Stop. Change your behaviors. Do things differently. What is one way you need to stop stealing now going forward. Write that down.

2. Say your sorry. Ask forgiveness from God. Then, in so far as you are able, go and apologize to anyone God has put on your heart that you have stolen from. Again, write this down. I pray that the words you write will prompt you to go and do something about it this week.

And 3. Make restitution. The Bible says in Exodus 22:1 that if someone steals something from another, they should restore it and pay it back four times over. When Zacchaeus feels convicted about his stealing, he promises Jesus, "Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I will repay them four times as much." (Luke 19:8)

Now, for some of you, this may be financially difficult. Perhaps so, but you are currently living on stolen wealth. Perhaps you need to downsize, to live within your real means.

God will grant you forgiveness, and He will guide you on the path to life. This forgiveness comes because Jesus has already paid our spiritual debt. We proclaim this when we celebrate Holy Communion. Let's do that, now.

Holy Communion -Pastor David

Prayer of Confession
 Words of Assurance
 Great Thanksgiving
 Words of Institution
 Prayer for the Holy Spirit
 Lord's Prayer
 Offering: Collected from cars as they leave
 Receiving of the Elements, by faith
 Prayer

Closing Song: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* -Sanctify (acoustic)**Announcements:** -Pastor David

Last grow group this week
 Next Sunday worship will be an “on your own” prayer walk on the church grounds from 10-11 a.m., please bring appropriate protective gear. Also, a video option will be provided for those unable to attend.
 Memorial Day Sunday (May 24) Worship will be outdoor under a tent on the church grounds. Please bring appropriate protective gear.

Memory Verse -Pastor David

“Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of Him.” -Colossians 3:17

Benediction -Pastor David**Closing Music** -Pastor Andrew

At the end of the service, greeters will again stand at each parking lot entrances and, as cars leave, 1. Hand out flowers to each of the women, and 2. Collect any offerings.