

SERMON NOTES: “YOU SHALL NOT STEAL”

Exodus 20:15, Psalm 24:1-2, Matthew 6:19-21

AVOIDING A SCAM

“Confessions of a Con Artist,” AARP Magazine, Sept 2012

<http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-09-2012/confessions-of-a-con-artist.html>

Eight Ways Seniors Can Avoid Identity Theft

<http://www.technewsdaily.com/16379-8-ways-seniors-id-theft.html>

PRESBYTERIAN DOCUMENTS

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 110. What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

A. *He forbids not only the theft and robbery which civil authorities punish, but God also labels as theft all wicked tricks and schemes by which we seek to get for ourselves our neighbor's goods, whether by force or under the pretext of right, such as false weights and measures, deceptive advertising or merchandising, counterfeit money, exorbitant interest, or any other means forbidden by God. He also forbids all greed and misuse and waste of his gifts.*

Q. 111. But what does God require of you in this commandment?

A. *That I work for the good of my neighbor wherever I can and may, deal with him as I would have others deal with me, and do my work well so that I may be able to help the poor in their need.*

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 74, 75. *The eighth commandment requires the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.*

A. *The eighth commandment forbids whatsoever doth, or may, unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor's, wealth or outward estate.*

SCRIPTURE

DELIBERATE DECEIT

Genesis 27 Jacob steals Esau's birthright;

Deuteronomy 19:14

¹⁴You must not move your neighbor's boundary marker, set up by former generations, on the property that will be allotted to you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.

ABUSING POWER FOR GAIN

1 Kings 21

¹Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. ²And Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard, so that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house;” ³But Naboth said to Ahab, “The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral inheritance.”

¹⁶As soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab set out to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Isaiah 10:1-3

¹Ah, you who make iniquitous decrees, who write oppressive statutes, ²to turn aside the needy from justice and *to rob the poor of my people of their right*, that widows may be your spoil, and that you may make the orphans your prey!

³What will you do on the day of punishment, in the calamity that will come from far away? To whom will you flee for help, and where will you leave your wealth?

Proverbs 22:16, 22

¹⁶Oppressing the poor in order to enrich oneself, and giving to the rich, will lead only to loss. ²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate;

CARING FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF ANOTHER

Deuteronomy 22: 1-4; 24:14-15, 18

22 ¹You shall not watch your neighbor's ox or sheep straying away and ignore them; you shall take them back to their owner.

²If the owner does not reside near you or you do not know who the owner is, you shall bring it to your own house, and it shall remain with you until the owner claims it; then you shall return it. ³You shall do the same with a neighbor's donkey; you shall do the same with a neighbor's garment; and you shall do the same with anything else that your neighbor loses and you find. You may not withhold your help. ⁴You shall not see your neighbor's donkey or ox fallen on the road and ignore it; you shall help to lift it up.

24 ¹⁴You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns. ¹⁵You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are poor and their livelihood depends on them; otherwise they might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt.

¹⁸Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

BEING GENEROUS TO THE POOR AND TO GOD

Deuteronomy 24:19-22

¹⁹When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings.

²⁰When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

²¹When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ²²Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

Malachi 3:8-10

⁸Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me!

But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings!

⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you!

¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.