

Opening Prayer**Introduction (10 minutes)****The 7th Commandment: “*Thou Shalt Not Steal.*” (30 Minutes)**

The 7th Commandment forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one’s neighbor and wronging him in any way with respect to his good.

- All manner of cheating in buying and selling is forbidden by the 7th Commandment, and also every other way of wronging our neighbor.
- Restitution - We are bound to restore ill-gotten goods if we are able, or the sin will not be forgiven; we must also pay our just debts
- It is dishonest for employees to waste their employer’s time or property, because it is wasting what is not their own
- Employers must pay employees a fair wage
- To put it into perspective: The 5th and 6th Commandments, God protects our life and honor; in the 7th He places our property and wealth in security.

The 10th Commandment: “*Thou shalt not covet they neighbor’s goods.*” (20 minutes)

The 10th Commandment forbids coveting the goods of another, as the root of theft, robbery, and fraud, which the 7th Commandment forbids.

- The right to private property.
- The right to own is limited with duties owed to our fellow man.

The 10th Commandment forbids all envious and covetousness thoughts about unjust desires for our neighbor’s goods and profits.

- THE GRAVITY OF THEFT

Is theft a grievous sin? This depends on 3 things:

1. The value of the thing stolen
2. The person or corporate body suffering the injustice
3. The time over which the theft is spread

Absolutely Grave: an amount sufficient in itself to constitute matter for a mortal sin

- Equivalent of the weekly wages earned by a person of the middle class of society

Relatively Grave:

- The average day’s pay of the victim of the injustice

What profit does he show who gains the whole world and destroys himself in the process? (**Luke 9:25**)

Most agree in principle, but how many of us violate this commandment. [Examples](#)

Theft can lead us from small to bigger sins. Judas started by stealing from the Apostles purse but then sold our Lord out for 30 pieces of silver. The bank robber did not start out that way.

“No thieves or robbers will inherit God’s kingdom.” (**1 Cor 6:10**)

Obligation to share with others, and not just from our surplus but even from our essentials if someone else in a greater need than we are.

Quote from Pope St John Paul II, "All that we have received from God – life itself as well as material goods – does not belong to us but is given to us for our use." **We are stewards of all God has given us.**

List of Scripture readings:

Matt 6:19-21 "Remember where your treasure is, there your heart is also."

Matt 6:24 "No man can serve two masters."

Matthew 19:23 "Only with difficulty will a rich man enter into the kingdom of God"

Luke 12:16-21 extra Grain storage....then the rich man dies that night.

- The Importance of Honesty

- Sin and Restitution - Story of Zaccheus, the wealthy tax collector (**Luke 19:7-9**)

7th and 10th Commandments forbid:

THEFT

BRIBES

DEPRIVING

STEALING from an employer or NEGLECTING one's work

DAMAGING or UNJUSTLY KEEPING something borrowed

CHEATING

AVARICE or COVETOUSNESS

ENVY (sadness at the good fortune of another)

7th and 10th Commandments require us:

TO GIVE

TO BE HONEST

TO RESTORE

TO BE CONTENT

God's justice is not in conflict with his mercy or goodness. While he is all-loving, merciful, and forgiving, he is also all-just. It will all get ironed out either here on planet earth or in the next life. The good thing about God's system of justice is that He will know all the circumstances of the case...intentions, mental limitations, our talents, or lack of talents. God will make the punishment fit the crime. God will judge the heart.

- Justice and Peace

Where there is no justice there is no peace. Justice will bring about peace." (Is 32:17)

Without justice, there is anarchy, oppression, warfare, and the triumph of evil.

Questions (10 minutes)

Closing Prayer