

Shovelash April 8, 1990 P.M. vvv
Brent Lox Nov. 10, 1991 P.M. vvv

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:15

mat 27:34

Thou shalt not steal. Merchant of Venice - "Who steals my Purse steals Trash"

March 76 This past week in the nation's capitol, a 183 arrests and warrants were issued to people for dealing in stolen property.

One of those arrested was Donald E. Robinson, Jr. An assistant U. S. Attorney for Washington. Because of bribery in behalf of some of the thieves.

Ivor Va - 1991 Oct - 2 Men Robbed The Bank \$19,777 - rode away on Bicycle - Part 76 yr woman's home - left Bike - sandola e, drove off
Hattie felt in Bank - Crawled out, hurt leg - Call Police - Dead end Road - Took
3,500 pieces of property - worth more than 2 1/2 million dollars have been

stolen over the past 5 months. 1,500 credit cards, 460 government checks, and 225 typewriters, 700 saving bonds, 18 automobiles and trucks, T. V. sets, stereo, etc.

off in 200 Acre Woods - 2nd Comm - turned out - dog + Crocker shot gun -
Next Am turned side into game warden! \$ missing! Tom Pittney Reporter Norfolk -

A million and a half dollars of government checks were stolen from an unattended vault. By a man who was on parole - who had previously been sentenced for 24 years for armed robbery. Who since his parole, after serving five years, has been arrested six times for forgery, burglary, and other offenses - and each time released on the streets again.

at office of Pitts Home doing story of Hattie's son telling Reporter Nothing
ever happened at door?
70% of all the people arrested had previous criminal records.

When you think of 30,000 fencing operations that were video taped over a period of 5 months that police set up - this has something to say to us about the commandment - Thou shalt not steal.

The home of Matthew Henry a great expositor of the Scriptures was broken into and his purse stolen. He wrote about the incident - let me be thankful

first because I was never robbed before. Second, because, although he did take my purse, he did not take my life. Third, because although he took all I possessed, it was not much. And fourth, because it was I who was robbed - and not I who robbed.

J. O. Williams tells the story of a young preacher who used this text in a sermon one Sunday. And the next day when he got on the bus - the bus driver gave him 10¢ too much change. Well, it did not belong to him. And imagine his surprise when he came back to the driver and the driver said, yes, I gave you too much on purpose. I heard your sermon yesterday. I watched you through the mirror. If you had kept the dime, I would never again had any confidence in your preaching.

The man thought perhaps, well, the company will never miss it. But yet, it did not belong to him.

Now there are awful records being set. Back in 1964 shoplifting was breaking all records. There was the matter of retailers losses by thieves - by 2-3 billion dollars, every day on the average in '64. 140 persons were robbed. 662 automobiles were stolen. 881 places burglarized. That is, all sorts of thefts were committed.

Nation's Capitol (Dist. of Columbia)
(almost 21 can Daily Stolen June 1972)

1971 auto theft 9,954 ; 1972 - 7,319
LARCENY 27,529 ; 24,188

Fix in mind there are three ways to acquire things. First - work for them. Second - secure them as a gift. Third - steal them, the latter we must never do.

On dismissing the maid, a lady said, I just had to let her go. She was taking the lovely towels that we had collected from hotels where we had stayed. She stole my Pullman Towels!

What about the child who for years thought his mother's maiden name was Pullman.

And had to have the car with some distance - -3- Then someone remembered he had neglected to lock his car & all began to worry - It is perfectly safe. "assured Mr. Indian guide". They ain't a white man in 50 miles -
By way of introduction, think of these Scriptures - and he that stealeth a man and selleth him, or if he be found in his hands - he shall surely be put to death." Ex. 21:16. *all men played by this sin -*

Prov. 18:9 - He always that is slack in his work - is brother to him that is a destroyer.

Eph. 4:28 - Let him that stole - steal no more. But let him rather labor and work with his hands the things that are good.

Matt. 27:38 - Then were there crucified with him - two robbers. The one on the right hand was the thief. *Martin Luther "Hang Thieves, if we get them all, where shall we get enough rope?"*
Reign of Henry VIII 70,000 Thieves were hanged - Horses, cows, ducks,
"Thou shalt not steal - no stealing." This commandment was given to these people who were migrant people. They were to co-operate together. Their wealth was small. They had individual possessions. Which they treasured. They were to be protected. Should they be stolen in the wilderness, they could not be replaced.

In society, some are fundamentally honest. And this command - Thou shalt not steal. And this can be understood in the nursery, it can be understood by small children. It can also be understood by teen-agers. It can be understood by college students. It can be understood by commercial enterprises.

Bernard Shaw "we must make the world honest, teach our children honesty is Best Policy"

The prohibition of thief has never been very effective unless it was backed up by a force coming from the hearts of men. The day that they settle in the promised land, the leadership of those people in the Bible, calls for judges. Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

And of course, once they entered the promised land, the big sin took place - and they were defeated because of this commandment being broken. 7 Achan

If you should remove the police from the modern state and the cities, the order of this world would collapse.

Men steal in a lot of ways. Some steal the glittering trash and sell it on the market for good goods. Alcohol is being used in many ways. In the transaction of property as well as business.

Let's think very seriously about this commandment in some ways that will be very concrete for us. Let's think about the rights of a man. Also, that a man should not rob himself. Or rob others - nor should he rob God.

I. THE RIGHTS OF MAN

This commandment is basic of all of our laws. That is we are to be honest. Unless there is such a thing as property, it would be impossible for us to have such a commandment. The right of property. This was given to man when God gave him the title of the earth. And God said in his commission, subdue the earth. Use the fruits of it.

When Dr. Carroll was describing a statement back in Genesis, concerning the acquiring and the subduing of all things of this earth - he listed some property rights. I'd like to bring what he had to say about property rights for your consideration.

First, the right to keep in harmony with God. You steal that right from a man as well as you can the other property. He has a right to be in harmony with God and you can steal the Sabbath from him.

Second, the right to himself. Now a man has a right to his own life. And I think Exodus tells us that a man stealing a man shall be severely punished. Now this deals with a matter of slaves and slavery and the crime of kidnapping. So a man has a right to himself.

Third, the right to his family - domestic happiness. Now when a man steals a man's wife, that man is robbing that hope of peace and destroying the family.

Fourth, the right to space. Man is a being - and he must have a place to turn around in. That is the reason Isaiah said, woe unto them that add house to house - land to land - until there is no room for the people. God gave man the earth. And no one should steal the place where he has on this earth.

Fifth, the right to health. Now when factories are built and they do not take precautions of the health of people, then they are stealing from those individual. You take the recent kepone problem up in the James River and Hopewell, Virginia. Those who manufactured this poison and was a problem to the health of the people who worked in the place, and to the health of those people who used the fish for food out of that river, were violating this commandment. They were stealing from the people.

Sixth, the right to time. Ye must know that a man's time is also his - and that it is very valuable. And you can steal a man's time away from him.

Seventh, the right to work. Man has a right to work. And if you take this away from him, then he cannot make an honorable living.

Eighth, then comes the right of safety. That is, it is not right for any man to live in unnecessary peril. It robs him. For example, it is not right for school children to have to go through saloons and gambling houses. It is robbery.

Nineth, he is entitled to rest. We can't live if we don't have time to rest. It is robbery to take away from a man the necessary time for this.

Tenth, man is entitled to a good man and it is a much bigger offense to steal a man's reputation by slander than perhaps it is to steal his money. This is one of the rights under God.

I think Dr. Carroll was right in listing these rights in which an individual has to property and all that surrounds him.

II. WE ARE NOT TO ROB OURSELVES

Now the man who wrongs a community, wrongs himself. A man who wrongs himself, wrongs the community. A man may be stealing things to enrich himself but he does injury to himself.

The selfish man robs himself of happiness at least when he breaks this commandment. Let me illustrate this with an old illustration. The prodigal son went off and took his money and went his way. And he robbed himself by sinful spending. And it reduced him to starvation. Now he robbed himself and he hurt others in doing so. We must not rob ourselves, either by wasting our money, or by misusing the privileges that we have.

The prodigal son was stealing from himself because he had a bad heart.

Now there are secondary sources when a man robs. First, some say extreme poverty - out of necessity. He may say, I have got to steal.

Second, out of laziness. A man may steal because he is too lazy to work. And yet he wants to eat.

Third, a man may steal because of fast living. He is living faster than he can supply and he must get resources from wherever he can.

Fourth, a man may steal because he wants to show off. He loves display. He loves luxury.

Fifth, a man may steal because of the love of money. The Bible says this is one of the evils.

III. WE MUST NOT ROB OUR NEIGHBORS.

Human laws very generally enforced - this divine law. Thou shalt not steal.

Material property. Human governments even recognize that men own property.

Intellectual stealing. Great changes would take place over the desks of writers - if the words would be placed- thou shalt not steal.

Moral theft. Every man who lowers his moral tone is stealing. He undermines his virtue. He becomes a parasite on morals. Gypsies they say, used to steal children from their homes. The white traders who dealt in slave traffic.

But it is morally wrong.

There is a story of Pheobe who is tempted along with other girls to get her some plums from a neighbors orchard. On bringing home the fruit, her mother reproved her and said she ought not to gather the plums without getting permission from the owner because it was a sin and God had commanded her not to steal. The child was being more sensible about the evil and was greatly surprised and burst into tears - I cannot touch these plums. The other children did not seem as much concerned. She returned the plums to the owner. Yet still, she was full of grief. The very inquiry - and her reply was, oh, it was a sin - a sin against God. That was a lesson that that little girl never forgot.

Amos, the prophet, condemns the rich people of Samaria, who sold the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of shoes. Chapter 2:6. They left the poor cold at night, while they used the clothes that they had taken from them as pledges.

In the 8th verse, for as much therefore, as ye trample upon the poor, and make extractions from him of weak, ye have built houses of hewn stone. We find that Jesus took up this same message when he talked about those who devoured widow's houses. Mark 12:40.

Deut. 24:19-22, we find that it removes the temptation to petty thievery - even when they reaped their fields, they were to make provisions for the strangers and the poor. They were not to rob from the poor. Deut. 3:5.

In Eph. we have read - let him that sows steal no more. And no one has said in his heart, thank God for the unspeakable gift, can straight way go on in a slothful way.

A bishop once had a conflict with a man about the way he was living. This man said well, if we possess property, we need to have arms to defend it. And then it is a source of quarrels and law suits. And there are many obstacles in the way.

There are many things however that go on the black market. And there are many ways in which people rob public libraries. And you read - I read once of back in 1956 where there was a train traveling through a country after a football game. After the affair was over, there were several windows and doors broken - five sliding windows smashed, 14 pictures broken, 2 mirrors cracked, one whole door missing, several electric light bulbs vanished, luggage racks were pulled from the wall, seats were slashed, and there was a great deal of junk. Now a sinner might remark, that a good time appeared to have been had by all. But looking at this commandment, it is theft - it is the evasion of responsibility.

We can even rob the future in areas of valuable land when we think about the natural resources and the soil, and the trees that future generations should enjoy. Theodore Roosevelt, in 1907, increased the national forest from 43 to 193 million acres.

There are ways that we steal from others. Bishop Gore has listed five ways, in which we steal.

✓ 1. By fraudulent dealing, in business or trade. Wherein the man receives the money and is given something less than its true value.

✓ 2. By requiring others to work for inadequate wages.

✓ 3. By giving or receiving bribes. And in ways of not doing our best.

✓ 4. By expecting others to work for us without doing our fair share of work.

In industry, men who have made surveys, discover that men (some men) only give four hours of work out of eight hours every day. And some as little as 3 1/2 hours. And others have said if you get six hours work out of a man, you have done pretty good.

5. By neglecting or by inadequately performing, the duties of giving.

There are many people who regard gifts to the church as a form of charity. For the church member, it should never be thought of in this way.

IV. METHODS OF STEALING

We take a moment now to think of property rights and the stealing of it. The acts of petty dishonesty. When in a bargain, one party takes the advantage of the ignorance of another. Or one borrows something without the intention of returning it.

Or one leaves bills unpaid without any idea of paying them.

Deut. 25:13 deals with false weights. He says a man steals by a quart measure that doesn't hold a quart. He steals by a bushel measure that doesn't hold a bushel. He steals by a piece of cloth - his yard stick may be all right. He may use his two thumbs on the end to steal the width of two thumbs every time he measures off a yard.

Story of a Miller - sells Flour: Order 5 Barrels of Apples from Apple Grower - How was when I measured the 5 Barrels of Apples - almost one " short! Fair Question all I did send them in to the mill -

Amos 8:4-7 - hear this oh ye, who would swallow up the needy and cause the poor of the land to fail, saying when will the new moon be gone. That we may sell grain. And the Sabbath, that we may set forth wheat.

Prov. 3:28 - say not unto thy neighbors go and come again tomorrow, I will give thee. When thou ask it for thee, if we delay payment of our just bills, we are stealing.

Prov. 20:14 - It is bad sayeth the buyer, but when he has gone his way, when he boasts. Here is a man, for example, is to buy a horse. He looks him over. He is just a shrimp of a horse. His feet are bad. It's wind is broken. And so you get the idea that you felt like that you ought to pay the man something to take the horse off of his hands. Just as soon as you get the horse, the other man throws back his head and laughs. He made a bargain. That is a steal.

Now the same things happen to people that fill their pockets on Wall Street. By stealing in the stock market. Then they will freeze somebody out. And then that major amount of stock will be controlled. And they all vote the big salaries, etc. And they never share the dividends. They get a monopoly.

Now the law classifies theft as petty larceny. That is to say, here is a little stealing and a big stealing. Paul had something to say about this - he said provide all things honest in the sight of God. Rom. 12:17 and in Rom. 8:8. Owe no man anything but to love one another. Provide these things honest in the sight of the Lord.

There are a lot of ways a man can steal - by not giving an honest days's work. Loafing on his job.

Some people would examine the books maybe that they have in their homes - they would be frightful really that this commandment is not really enforced. I don't know how many hymn books that the churches lose through the years. And religious workers are not too careful about this.

There are those who shoplift - and merchants lose hundreds of dollars.

They have to have floorwalkers and protect their interest in the stores. *"Pocket picking"*

Unrecognized in Egypt at the profession. King FAROUK was married, The King of Thieves, As a friendly gesture to other Kings, He called off his Thieves during the celebration. Not a pocket was picked - Realist Digest Sept. 1938.

There are confidence men dressed like movie stars. They fix judges and hob-nob with the legislators. And seldom if ever do they go to prison.

They try to buy the town, the mayor, the cop, the patrol car.

In one of Denver's operations - a man is reported to have taken 3 million dollars a year in one single operation.

The Saturday Evening Post had a story once of a sweet old lady buying a TURKEY Thanksgiving from a fat friendly butcher. The artist who painted the picture for the story, managed to convey a world of truth. The turkey was being weighed on the butcher's scales. On the other side of the counter stood the woman. And on the other side, stood the butcher. Both had their eyes on the weight indicator. And each pair of eyes was an expression of delight. Cautiously the fat butcher had put his big right thumb on the scales behind the turkey pressing him down. On the opposite side, the sweet old lady's chubby fore-finger was underneath the scales, pressing them up. Each was unaware of the other's deception. Each thought an advantage had been gained.

How tragic - often good people, church people, violate this commandment. Thinking nothing of it. *Stealing A Brood Tie or Sister Dress*

Dr. Charles Allen said all of our lives are stained by sin. He says once when I was a little boy, I saw a soft drink truck. Which seemed unattended. I slipped one of the bottles in a pocket - and when I got around the bend of the road, I opened it. The driver stepped up just then and demanded payment - but I had no nickel. He sternly said, get the money for me in 30 minutes - or I will put you in jail. He said, I ran home and told my father what I had done wrong. Instead of giving me a whipping, he gave me a nickel and quietly said, go pay the man. That is a picture of God - we do wrong, and our very consciences condemn us to Hell. But if we remember to confess our sins, he is righteous and just to forgive us.

A Watermelon -

The bully at school who snatches the younger and weaker's lunch, the strong executive who is ruthless in his business and money, the aggressive tribes during war who gather their tents and captives as Caesar did. The burglars, the hold-up men, they make no bones about it. That is their life's work. They crack safes, they steal pay rolls. They open armoured trucks. They go to the banks.

And then there are the purse snatchers. There are those who break into jewelry stores.

And then there is the little child he steals because of the bundle of appetites which he has. Without self discipline, he takes a short-cut to get his desires. When he picks up his own rubber ball and plays with it as he pleases, and he comes to a neighbors toy and he will snatch that away. He must learn that that is not his.

I think here is a truth that all people need to know. Mine and thine.

I read about a little girl who snuggled up a doll underneath her coat.

From her neighbor's house. It was a hidden treasure for her. And later a note came from the hostess - was it possible that the child made a mistake. And the whole story came out. That wicked little child. Disgraced herself and her family.

One mother said what am I going to do with the candy - no matter where I hide it, he finds it.

Well, the best thing to do is to put the candy out where he can see it. And teach him to eat it properly. If he wants to stuff himself and get sick all at once, all you have to do is teach him self control.

So that the next time he sees candy, he will be old enough to know about it. And not have to search the house and then suffer the consequences.

N.Y. American Mar, 26, 1935 Reported 2 Policemen Convicted Stealing 100 Boxes of Candy-Factory-

When he steals money - there is a need of desire. But honesty must be taught a child. I do not think that parents ought to send their children to a money drawer or to a purse, until they are ready to accept responsibility, for that which does not belong to them. A child needs to know that what does not belong to him must be carried back to the place where he picked it up. He must feel honesty, he must see honesty, and he must learn what is mine and what is thine. Just simply that.

Not only children, but adults need to know this. Naboth was put to death. Because of the queen Jezebel, who had him murdered. She wanted to steal his vineyard.

In church, Ananias held back part of the money that should have gone into the treasury of the church. He lied to God, he stole from God, and it brought death to him.

You do not have to look far to see that this commandment needs to be enforced today. Look at the headlines of the newspapers - listen to the news on the radio.

Look into the hearts of people. There are so many scandels and we recognize that dishonesty has become a common place. In political life - fur coats, thievery in high places. Whether it is slipping by the gate in the arena, or evading the income tax, bribing a policeman. Or some high place in government.

The problem of Aken was that God had forbidden them to take the gold and the garments - and he took them anyways.

afghanistan - Case Man Rights were cut off - 2nd time left aram. FAKERIES Flames of the Burning Bush - tears shed by Jesus at Lazarus Graves - The Keys of the Animal Jesus Rode on Palm Sunday - The Seamless Coat - as authentic in Ancient Cathedral N.Y. Times July 28, 1933

V. WE ARE TO NOT ROB GOD

WNO Sir, we are going to make him come back & preach out every dollar of it. whatever you say about that church they believe in a second chance!

Now this commandment has something to say to our own hearts and lives. And

I think we are not to rob God.

caught dipping into the Church Treasury in an unauthorized fashion, the fact he had stolen about \$300 & skipped town, one day one of the men in the church was telling a fellow townsman about it. But reported gleefully that they had finally caught the man. Friend asked are you prosecute him in court, send to jail - Member shocked & replied -

Will a man rob God. Mal. 3:8-10 says - yet ye have robbed me. Frequently

men rob God. Pastor Mooreland Indiana, stole 3 cars, \$40 a month not permit him to own a car, visit Parishoners.

There were penalties that went along in the Old Testament. As well as the new - concerning those who wrote this commandment.

There was a news article of two men in Hartford, Conn. who were sentenced to two years in prison for stealing a Bible. They were sentenced on third degree robbery charges. And it involved purse snatching.

All that was contained in the purse was the book - and it contained the phrase - Thou shalt not steal. And the chief assistant State's Attorney, Banberry recommended the sentence to the court. The purse was taken from a 68 year old woman.

Ray Johnson, Pastor of 1st Bapt.,
Titusville. It inspired me to write the
following:

Several months ago a group of people
stole some copper guttering off the church
building. We had some of it replaced and
they or someone else ripped it off again
and some more. It was sad and shocking
to think that these people had so little
fear of God and of what belongs to Him to
steal from a church. The idea that some-
one would steal from God is almost un-
thinkable, and yet people do it everyday.

Some of us steal time from God. We,
as Christians, believe we should devote
time to spiritual things everyday.
At least 1 day a week should be devoted
to worship, rest, study of His Word, and
prayer. But some people don't do it.

Some of us steal our talents, which
God has given for us to use for His
glory. He gave us minds to think, voices
to sing, and all kinds of abilities
(spiritual gifts) to help others and lead
them to Christ...but some people don't do it.

Some of us steal money from God.
The Bible teaches that we are to give
Him back a portion of our material
resources. The tithe is a good place to
start, however, He teaches us to give
proportionally (a percentage), but some
people rob God (Malachi 3:8-10)

Some of us steal love from God. He
loved us so much that He sent His Son
to us; and it is natural for us to love
Him back in return, but some don't do it.

Let's reverse the ways of some and
do what God expects.

accused of stealing 200 cattle, many fine horses -16- Connected, served for Prison N.Y. World Telegram
Apr 19, 1932

As she walked home from a church meeting. Yes, it has penalties though beyond that. It has penalties of the heart. And life.
N.Y. Journal Oct 12, 1937 Morris Johnson lay preacher gets in pulpit, removes Bible, takes out revolver, led a gang of 4, held up ch. members, 20 hold ups in Brooklyn.
N.Y. Herald Tribune Nov 13, 1929 He would rob & preach the same night.

McNear, of the First Baptist Church, Ft. Smith, Ark, said some church burglars were caught. His church had been burglarized twice. And they finally caught the man and his wife who had broke into their church. Therefore, he said, I wanted to go down and talk to those people, who robbed the house of God. And discovered that they made their livelihood robbing churches. Pennies, nickels, dimes that children had given for Birthdays, Foreign Missions, hospitals, colleges, seminaries, to the deaf, the blind, and the orphans. And he said, these two adult people admitted that they had broken into recently 43 churches across the country. The woman said that she was deserted when she was 2 months of age. She went to a foster home. The foster mother died when she was age 14. And she broke down while this minister talked to her. She knew she was terribly wrong. "Do you think you could forgive me." "Do you think God could ever forgive me for this terrible thing. The preacher said, yes, I'll forgive you. And then this lady said, will you go back to your church and ask them if they will forgive me. For robbing God and for robbing his church.

That is an unusual experience.

We had a young man Willie White once in our church who went to Saudia, Arabia, to work. And he came back and told us of the penalty for stealing. The penalty there meant to cut off the right hand. He saw a man with his hand gone and that is a pretty severe penalty.

There was a story that came out in the newspaper about the Hamburg locksmith.

That not a single brick, tile, screw or nail in his little brick house but what had been stolen. His case, police think is the most unique in criminal history. Over a period of two years and by way of 80 different thefts the man accumulated every square inch of the house at somebody else's expense. Even testified that he had stolen the flowers that were blooming on his lawn. What makes the case unique is that he accomplished his thefts piece-meal. Day by day, bit by bit.

Edward Markham told a parable of a builder. He said a wealthy man assigned a contractor to build him a beautiful house. Then with all of the details settled, the rich man left for Europe. For a long trip. The builder seeing no one around to check on him, proceeded to cheat, on every specification of the house. Floors, beams, walls, and roofs. Where the cheapest all possible material - was all erected on a poorly built foundation. The rich man returned, he sought out the builder and he said, here are the keys to the house - your house. You did not know it, but you built this house for yourself. What a pity, the man thought. I could have had the very best of everything. And yet because of my dishonest heart, my house will be worthless in a few years.

In the story of the man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, he fell among thieves and we find some good ideas here about re-enforcing this commandment here. The right of a man to earn, to work, and to own. First, the thieves said what belongs to my neighbor belongs to me. And they were aggressive and they took it away from him. There are lots of people who go into debt without any idea of ever paying for something. Or fail to give an honest day's work. Or they steal the inner supports of other people.

Second, there were the Levites in this story who withheld from these fellows.

"What belongs to me is mine and I'll keep it." Now there are lots of people who have a great deal and they grab hold and they wouldn't help anyone else.

The third man in the story was a Samaritan. He saw this brother in need. "What belongs to me, belongs to others, and I will share it." And that is something that we never should forget. Our talents, our material resources, God expects us to divide these up with us.

Zacchaeus, you remember, 1/2 of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have taken anything from any man, I will restore him four fold. Luke 19:8-9. All of his dishonest gains, Zacchaeus went back to work for the IRS in his days.

A few years ago William White was given a piece of land to the city of Emporia, Kansas. He said there are three kicks in every dollar. First, when you make it. And he says, I dearly love to make it. Second, when you have it. And he said I enjoy that. And third, when I give it away. And so he was giving this land.

Shakespeare said, "to thine own self be true and it must follow as the night to day, thou canst not be false to any man - it pays to be honest."

Robert S. Denny, in July, 1952, tells about a place in Zurich, Switzerland. A group of students were giving testimonies and a charming girl, Marie, told about how during the war - things were bad, food was short, I began to steal in order to eat. The stealing habit grew, I began to steal things beside food. It seemed hardly anytime until I became a regular thief. Taking anything that was available.

I picked up a leaflet and it had a message that offered a Bible free. I filled out the coupon and sent it on. I began to read the verses and they stand out. "Let him that stole, steal no more." And it is more blessed to give than to receive. "God so loved the world that he gave his son."

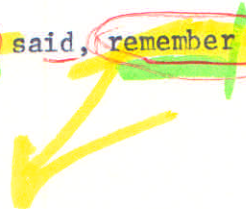
Something happened to me. I was open minded, intellectual - I could not throw the book away, I must try. God help me, I pray. Instead of stealing - I began to give.

One A.M. Minister found note scribbled at bottom sick list - for whom he was to offer prayer for - "Dear pastor: Old Jim - is getting rich, kindly remember him in your prayers this morning!"

That day some friends who had been stealing with me came and they were amazed. The light of God had dawned on my dark soul and I became a Christian.

The thief on the cross said, remember me.

Mat - 27:38



Steal - Best years of your life -

Don't let Devil steal spiritual life from you -

Daily devotion - Prayer - Ch attendance -

Did you ever see a child put on a jacket & put button no. one in hole no. two? What happened

The jacket ended buttoned up incorrectly,

so it is that the starting point for Christian living is important - Start Right!