

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 20:15

A. An Old Testament Example: When God's people were fighting to gain possession of the land which God had promised to them, they won a great victory at Jericho because God fought for them. The next town they sought to conquer was Ai. Read about this battle in Joshua 7:

1. What had God commanded should be done with the people of Jericho and all of their possessions? Joshua 6:17

2. What was to be done with the silver and gold, and vessels of brass and iron? Joshua 6:19

3. What would be the penalty if anyone broke these commands? Joshua 6:18

4. How large a place was Ai? Joshua 7:3

5. What happened when the Israelites fought against Ai? Joshua 7:4, 5

6. How did Joshua and the other leaders feel about this? Joshua 7:6-9

7. What did God say was the reason for this terrible defeat? Joshua 7:11

8. What did God say must be done before they could have victory again? Joshua 7:13

9. Notice the four steps in the sin of Achan: Joshua 7:21

- a. First he _____ the articles;
- b. then he _____ them;
- c. then he _____ them;
- d. and finally he _____ them.

10. What was Achan's punishment for this sin?

- a. Joshua 7:25b _____
 - b. Joshua 7:15, 25c _____
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11. What was Achan's total gain because of stealing? Joshua 7:24, 25

12. Who else suffered because of Achan's sin? Joshua 7:24, 25

B. The Command in the New Testament:

1. How is this command stated in the New Testament? Ephesians 4:28a

2 Bible Discoveries: OT Historical Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
Book 2 Leaving Egypt Through Conquest of Canaan

2. What is one to do instead of stealing? Why? Ephesians 4:28b
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C. The Command in Present-Day Life:

1. A good definition of stealing is this: "Taking that which belongs to another without giving something of equal value in return."

Do you steal when you:

- a. keep incorrect change? _____
 - b. waste time on the job? _____
 - c. turn in as your own work that which has been done by another? _____
 - d. do not return borrowed articles? _____
 - e. gamble? _____
 - f. waste time? _____
2. What do you steal when you
- a. gossip? _____
 - b. cheat on a test? _____
 - c. are noisy or uncooperative in class? _____
 - d. do not give money to the Lord's work? _____
 - e. do not give your life to God? _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. (See Malachi 3:8a)
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2. Thou that preaches a man should not steal, dost thou steal? (See Romans 2:21b)
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