

Date: 10/30/05
Series: Ten Commandments
Ancient Stones: Timeless Truth
Todays Topic: 7th commandment - The Thief
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WE ARE CONTINUING THE SERIES IN THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS.

WE ARE ON THE 7TH COMMANDMENT, WHICH IS
YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.

BEFORE WE BEGIN, I'M GOING TO OPEN UP IN
PRAYER.

DEAR LORD, HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU
FOR THESE COMMANDMENTS WHICH CONVICT US
OF OUR SIN.

LORD, NOT ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM FULLY
OBEYS ALL OF THESE COMMANDS AND THAT IS
SO HUMBLING.

BUT YOU SENT YOUR SON WHO IS THE
ULTIMATE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW AND WHO
FULLY OBEYED ALL OF THESE COMMANDS.

WE THANK YOU FOR HIS GRACE IN OUR LIVES.
AND THROUGH HIS GRACE, LORD, HELP US TO
BE OBEDIENT TO THESE COMMANDS.

WE LIFT THIS PRAYER TO YOU IN JESUS'
NAME, AMEN.

IN 1893 THE FAMOUS EXPRESSIONIST ARTIST
EDVARD MUNCH PAINTED HIS MASTERPIECE
CALLED THE SCREAM.

I'M AN ARTIST AND THIS IS ONE OF MY
FAVORITE PAINTINGS.

IF IT WERE TO SELL TODAY, IT WOULD
ESTIMATE TO SELL FOR \$75 MILLION.
MAYBE YOU'VE SEEN THIS PAINTING BEFORE.
IN FACT, PERHAPS YOU'VE EVEN BEEN TO
OSLO'S MUNCH MUSEUM.
BUT ON AUGUST 22ND OF 2004, TWO MEN
ATTEMPTED TO STEAL THIS PAINTING.
BUT BEFORE I CAN FINISH MY STORY, WE
NEED TO TAKE A DEEPER LOOK INTO THE 7TH
COMMANDMENT, AND I PROMISE I'LL RETURN
TO THE STORY.
TODAY THE 7TH COMMANDMENT MIGHT BE THE
MOST VIOLATED COMMANDMENT OF THEM ALL.
WHY DO I SAY THIS?
I SAY THIS BECAUSE THE 7TH COMMANDMENT
IS INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH THE FINAL 7
COMMANDMENTS.
NOT STEALING HONOR AWAY FROM YOUR
PARENTS.
NOT STEALING LIFE AWAY FROM YOUR
NEIGHBOR.
NOT STEALING SEXUAL INTIMACY AWAY FROM
YOUR SPOUSE.
NOT STEALING THE TRUTH AWAY FROM YOUR
NEIGHBOR.
AND NOT STEALING THE POSSESSION AWAY
FROM YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER.
YOU SEE, THE FINAL SEVEN COMMANDMENTS
FIND THEIR ROOT IN THIS ONE COMMANDMENT.
YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.

RARELY DID JESUS GET ANGRY.
IN FACT, THERE IS ONLY ONE TIME IN THE
GOSPELS WHERE WE SEE JESUS GET VIOLENT.
AS RECORDED IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL IN THE
21ST CHAPTER, IT SAYS, JESUS ENTERED THE
TEMPLE OF GOD AND DROVE OUT ALL THOSE
WHO SOLD AND BOUGHT IN THE TEMPLE.
AND HE OVERTHREW THE TABLES OF THE MONEY
CHANGERS AND THE SEATS OF THOSE WHO SOLD
PIGEONS.
AND HE SAID IT WAS WRITTEN, MY HOUSE
SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER, NOT A
DEN OF ROBBERS.
JESUS KNEW THE EVIL INVOLVED IN
STEALING.
IN FACT, IN DESCRIBING SATAN, HE DOESN'T
CALL HIM AN ADULTERER OR A MURDERER.
HE CALLED HIM A THIEF.
AND IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, THE 10TH CHAPTER,
HE SAYS THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL,
KILL AND DESTROY.
BUT I HAVE COME THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE
AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.
DID YOU CATCH THAT PROGRESSION THERE?
STEAL, KILL, DESTROY.
ULTIMATELY, THOSE WHO STEAL FROM OTHERS
ARE DESTROYING LIFE, ATTEMPTING TO TAKE
AWAY WHAT GOD HAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED
FOR LIFE.
TAKING AWAY WHAT GOD PROVIDES TO OTHER

PEOPLE.

LAST WEEK PASTOR BEN SPOKE TO US ABOUT THE 6TH COMMANDMENT.

HE CALLED IT THE SEX TALK, AND I

LISTENED TO IT ON-LINE.

HE SPOKE ABOUT THE POWER OF THOSE WHO COMMIT ADULTERY AND THE GRIEF IT CAUSES THE FAMILIES, AND HE TALKED ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF PORNOGRAPHY, ESPECIALLY AMONG MEN.

BUT I SAY TO YOU THIS MORNING THAT THE 6TH COMMANDMENT, YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, IS INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH THE 7TH COMMANDMENT, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.

LET ME SHOW YOU HOW.

GOD CREATES SEX AND HE CREATES IT TO BE A BEAUTIFUL EXPRESSION OF LOVE WITHIN MARRIAGE.

AND I REMEMBER, PERHAPS YOU DO TO, THAT ANALOGY THAT PASTOR BEN SHOWED US WITH THE ROSE AND HOW IT IS BEAUTIFUL AND FULL OF COLOR AND A WONDERFUL FRAGRANCE. BUT WHEN IT IS PASSED AROUND FOR EVERYONE TO TOUCH, SUDDENLY IT BECOMES DAMAGED.

CHEAPENED.

THERE IS ANOTHER PREACHER I KNOW IN ST. LOUIS AND HE USES AN ANALOGY OF A FLOWER POT.

AND HE TOOK THIS FLOWER POT AND SHOWED
IT TO THE CONGREGATION AND SAID WHAT DO
YOU SEE?

AND OF COURSE THERE WAS A FLOWER IN
THERE AND SOME SOIL.

AND HE SAID LOOK, SOIL.

IT PROVIDES NUTRIENTS, EVERYTHING THIS
PLANT NEEDS TO THRIVE AND GROW AND ALL
IT IS DESIGNED TO BE.

AND THEN HE TOOK SOME SOIL AND HE TOOK
IT OUT OF THE POT, AND HE DUMPED IT ON
THE GROUND.

AND HE SAID WHAT IS IT?

IT IS DIRT, ISN'T IT?

UGLY, USELESS DIRT.

GOOD FOR NOTHING BUT TO VACUUM UP OFF
THE FLOOR AND DISCARD IN THE WASTE
BASKET.

YOU SEE SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE IS DIRT.

IT NEEDS TO STAY WITHIN THE POT.

AND THOSE WHO HAVE SEX BEFORE

MARRIAGE -- I'M SPEAKING FOR SINGLE

PEOPLE ESPECIALLY -- THEY ARE STEALING

FUTURE INTIMACY AWAY FROM THEIR SPOUSE.

THOSE WHO HAVE SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE

WHO ARE ALREADY MARRIED, THEY'RE

STEALING INTIMACY AWAY FROM THEIR

CURRENT SPOUSE.

ADULTERERS ARE THIEVES.

AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAT THE DEVIL

WANTS TO DO THAN STEAL INTIMACY AWAY
FROM MARRIAGE.
THIEVES TODAY COME IN MANY DIFFERENT
FORMS, DON'T THEY?

I JUST EXPLAINED TO YOU THE ADULTERER,
BUT I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT A THIEF.
WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN I SAY THE
WORD THIEF?

DO YOU THINK ABOUT A YOUNG BOY WHO
DOESN'T HAVE ANY MONEY AND WHO WALKS
INTO A GROCERY STORE AND ATTEMPTS TO
TAKE A SNICKERS BAR WITHOUT PAYING FOR
IT?

OR MAYBE YOU THINK ABOUT A STALKER IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHO HAS A MASK
ON AND GOES AROUND PROWLING LOOKING FOR
INNOCENT PEOPLE TO STEAL FROM.

BUT DID YOU THINK ABOUT THE PERSON WHO
BURNS MUSIC ILLEGALLY OFF THE INTERNET
WITHOUT PAYING A SINGLE PENNY TO THAT
ARTIST?

THIS IS STEALING AND THIS IS SIN.
AND IT'S SPREADING IT'S UGLY STENCH
THROUGHOUT MY GENERATION.

DID YOU THINK ABOUT THE PERSON WHO TAKES
A COMPUTER PROGRAM FROM A FRIEND AND
TAKES IT HOME AND THEN BURNS A COPY FOR
HIMSELF OR HERSELF AND THEN RETURNS THE
COPY TO THE FRIEND AND DOESN'T PAY A
SINGLE DIME TO THE COMPANY THAT CREATED
THAT PRODUCT?

THIS IS STEALING, AND AGAIN, IT'S
SPREADING IT'S STENCH THROUGHOUT MY
GENERATION.
MODERN DAY THIEVES COME IN MANY FORMS.
AND TODAY THE INTERNET HAS MADE
VIOLATING THE 7TH COMMANDMENT EXTREMELY
ENTICING EVEN FOR CHRISTIANS.
THIS IS SOMETHING I STRUGGLE WITH.
I NEED TO MAKE A CONFESSION TO YOU.
THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, I
BURNED MUSIC.
I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW IT WAS ILLEGAL AND
THEN I RESEARCHED IT AND FOUND OUT IT
WAS ILLEGAL.
AND SO I'VE COMMITTED TO NO LONGER BURN
MUSIC ILLEGALLY.
JUST RECENTLY I WENT DOWN TO MY FRIEND'S
OFFICE DOWNSTAIRS, HIS NAME IS JOEL.
HE HAD THIS BIG PACKAGE OF CD'S.
AND I WAS LOOKING THROUGH THE CD'S
OPENING UP THE CASES AND I WAS LOOKING
FOR A MESSAGE PERHAPS ON STEALING.
AND I OPENED UP SARAH BRENDEL CD, AN
ARTIST I HAD NEVER HEARD OF, AND I READ
THE PARAGRAPH, AND IT SAYS COPYING THIS
MUSIC IS THE SAME THING AS STEALING
MUSIC.
THAT CONVICTED ME AGAIN.
AND PERHAPS YOU DON'T BURN MUSIC,
PERHAPS YOU DON'T BURN COMPUTER

PROGRAMS, BUT I'M SURE THERE IS SOMEONE
YOU KNOW WHO DOES.

YOU SEE, THE HARDEST PART ABOUT THESE
COMMANDMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE 7TH
COMMANDMENT, IS REMAINING OBEDIENT EVEN
WHEN THERE APPEARS TO BE GRAY AREA.

AND WHEN I SAY GRAY AREA, I MEAN WHEN WE
SAY TO OURSELVES, WELL, IF THEY REALLY
DIDN'T WANT US TO STEAL, THEY WOULDN'T
MAKE IT SO EASY.

THIS IS A LIE.

THIS IS DECEPTION.

THIS IS FROM THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

YOU SEE, WHEN WE STEAL FROM OTHERS, WE
ARE DESTROYING LIFE AS I MENTIONED.

AND THE SAD THING ABOUT THIS VIOLATING
OF THE 7TH COMMAND IS OFTENTIMES IT
HAPPENS IN THE DARKEST TIMES WHEN NO ONE
ELSE IS AROUND TO KEEP US ACCOUNTABLE.
IN THE PROPHECY OF ZECHARIAH HE SPOKE
AGAINST THIEVES.

AND I ASK YOU TO TAKE THE BIBLE, AND I
WOULD LIKE YOU TO FLIP WITH ME TO THE
BOOK OF ZECHARIAH.

IT'S THE SECOND TO THE LAST BOOK IN THE
OLD TESTAMENT.

SO IF YOU START AT THE END OF THE OLD
TESTAMENT, WE HAVE MALACHI AND THEN
ZECHARIAH BEFORE THAT.

GO AHEAD AND MOVE WITH ME TO ZECHARIAH
CHAPTER 5.

AND IN THIS TEXT WE SEE THAT, LIKE MANY
OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS, ZECHARIAH SAW
SOME STRANGE THINGS.

AND IN THIS TEXT, ZECHARIAH SEES A
FLYING SCROLL.

AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO READ IT OUT LOUD
WITH ME.

ZECHARIAH CHAPTER 5:1-4.

I'LL START US OFF.

I LOOKED AGAIN AND THERE BEFORE ME WAS A
FLYING SCROLL.

HE ASKED ME, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

I ANSWERED, I SEE A FLYING SCROLL 30
FEET LONG AND 15 FEET WIDE.

AND HE SAID TO ME, THIS IS THE CURSE
THAT IS GOING OUT OVER THE WHOLE LAND.
FOR ACCORDING TO WHAT IT SAYS ON ONE
SIDE, EVERY THIEF WILL BE BANISHED AND
ACCORDING TO WHAT IT SAYS ON THE OTHER,
EVERYONE WHO SWEARS FALSELY WILL BE
BANISHED.

THE LORD ALMIGHTY DECLARES, I WILL SEND
IT OUT AND IT WILL ENTER THE HOUSE OF
THE THIEF AND THE HOUSE OF HIM WHO
SWEARS FALSELY BY MY NAME.

IT WILL REMAIN IN HIS HOUSE AND DESTROY
IT, BOTH ITS TIMBERS AND ITS STONE.

IN THIS TEXT WE SEE GOD'S WRATH POURED
OUT AGAINST THIEVES.

AND THESE THIEVES SPECIFICALLY WERE
STEALING FROM GOD'S HOLY TEMPLE, TAKING

THINGS THAT GOD HAD INTENDED TO BE
USEFUL FOR WORSHIPPING HIM, AND YET
THESE THIEVES WERE TAKING THESE ITEMS TO
WORSHIP IDOLS.

BUT THANKFULLY, GOD DOESN'T GET ANGRY
WHEN THINGS ARE STOLEN FROM HIS TEMPLE
ANYMORE, DOES HE?

OR PERHAPS HE DOES.

THE APOSTLE PAUL SAYS THIS: YOUR BODY
IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO IS IN
YOU.

YOUR BODY BELONGS TO THE LORD WHO HAS
PAID A COSTLY PRICE.

SO YOU MAY BE ASKING, WHAT CAN BE STOLEN
FROM THIS TEMPLE?

AND I SAY TO YOU PRAISE, A THIRST FOR
SCRIPTURE, SEXUAL PURITY, GENTLENESS,
KINDNESS, AND A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE BACK
TO GOD A PORTION OF WHAT HE'S GIVEN TO
US.

THE DEVIL LOOKS TO STEAL, KILL AND
DESTROY, AND HE FIRST LOOKS TO TAKE AWAY
THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER.

I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ANOTHER
THIEF.

THIS THIEF WAS THE MOST POPULAR THIEF
DURING JESUS' TIME.

AND HE WAS CAUGHT FOR HIS CRIME.

AND HE WAS PUNISHED JUSTLY.

AND AS HE HUNG ON A CROSS NEXT TO THE

SON OF GOD, HE LOOKED OVER TO THE OTHER
THIEF AND SAID, WE ARE BEING PUNISHED
JUSTLY FOR OUR DEEDS, BUT THIS MAN HAS
DONE NOTHING TO DESERVE DEATH.

THEN THE REPENTANT THIEF TURNED TO JESUS
AND SAID, JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU
COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM.

AND WITH BLOOD DRIPPING DOWN HIS SCALP
FOR THE SINS OF ALL MANKIND, THE SON OF
GOD TURNED TO THAT THIEF AND SAID, I
TELL YOU THE TRUTH, TODAY YOU WILL BE
WITH ME IN PARADISE.

THAT IS REDEMPTION, FOLKS.

THAT IS LOVE.

THE GREATEST EXPRESSION OF LOVE.

REPENTANT THIEVES ARE NOW WELCOMED INTO
PARADISE.

WHEN WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED
FOR US.

AND THIS MORNING YOU ARE FORGIVEN OF ALL
YOUR SINS.

PARADISE IS YOURS, FREE, BECAUSE THE SON
OF GOD ENDURED OUR PUNISHMENT ON
CALVARY.

PARADISE IS YOURS THROUGH FAITH BY THE
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AS I PROMISED YOU, I WILL FINISH THE
STORY ABOUT THE SCREAM.

THESE TWO MEN, THEY DECIDED TO TAKE THIS
PAINTING, AND THEY RIPPED IT OFF THE

WALL.

REMEMBER THIS PAINTING WAS
\$75 MILLION.

AND THEY WALKED OUT OF THE MUSEUM
WITHOUT A SINGLE ALARM GOING OFF.

WITHOUT ONE GUARD ATTEMPTING TO STOP
THEM.

ONE WITNESS SAID TAKING THE PAINTING
COULDN'T HAVE BE ANY MORE EASY.

TODAY BREAKING THE 7TH COMMANDMENT
COULDN'T BE ANY MORE EASY.

THERE IS NO ONE REALLY TO LOOK OVER OUR
COMPUTER SCREEN, TO WATCH OUR CHECKBOOK,
TO WATCH HOW WE USE OUR TIME
PRODUCTIVELY, EFFICIENTLY.

SO I ASK YOU, WILL YOU JOIN ME IN THIS
JOURNEY TO OBEDIENCE?

YOU ARE FORGIVEN AND GRACE IS YOURS.

IT COVERS OVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS.

BUT WILL YOU LIVE THIS LIFE OF OBEDIENCE
WITH ME EVEN IN THE GRAY AREA?

RECEIVE HIS FORGIVENESS AND LIVE THE
LIFE OF OBEDIENCE.

AMEN.

MAY THE GOD WHO IS FULL OF GRACE AND
FORGIVENESS BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU AND
MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU AND BE
GRACIOUS TO YOU.

MAKE THE LORD LIFT HIS COUNTENANCE UPON
YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

AMEN.

