



# Ten.Com

Number 8:  
Exodus  
20: 15



***You shall not steal.  
no stealing***



***When you think about it, this covers a lot of ground. Maybe you haven't ever nicked a tube of Smarties from Woolworths, but have you ever:***

- ***borrowed something and not returned it?***
- ***used something that wasn't yours without permission?***
- ***been given too much change and not returned it?***
- ***talking behind someone's back and stealing their reputation from them?***
- ***messing around in class and stealing other peoples' time to learn.....and your own!***

***Are all of the above wrong? Are they all stealing? What do you think God's attitude is to each of them?***

***Jesus didn't directly mention this commandment in His Sermon on the Mount, but He does give us another perspective on it:***

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good

gifts to those who ask him!

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

*Matthew 7:7-14*

***How does this link with stealing? To answer this we are going to think about why people steal, and the first sentence of this passage.***

***What reasons do people have for stealing?***

***What does Jesus say at the beginning of this passage about the things we want?***

***Suppose we ask God for something and He does not give it to us, what reasons would there be for this?***

***The passage says that God is like a good father who gives good things to His children who ask. Here's another passage that sums that up:***

When tempted, no-one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown,

gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. *James 1:13-17*

***The reason people steal is often because they have put possessions before God. We should learn to be content with whatever we have***

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

*Hebrews 13:5*

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

*Phillippians 4:12*

***So then, aim to live lives in which you practise being content with what you have, don't look at what other people have got but focus instead on what Jesus has already given you and remember what the Father said to the Prodigal Son's older brother:***

`My son,' the father said, `you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

*Luke 15:31*



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