

"A Vast, Wide Stable of Thieves"

Exodus 20:15

"You shall not steal" [Exodus 20:15]

"Mankind is nothing but a vast, wide stable full of great _____" (Luther)
Stealing? "Unjustly laying our hands on that which belongs to another"

I. Theft _____ against the Two Greatest Commandments

A. We steal from one another

1. _____ theft
 - a. Shoplifting;
 - b. Theft in the workplace;
 - c. _____ theft;
 - d. Copyright theft
 - e. Tax theft;
 - f. Neglect of our obligations to others;
 - g. Borrowing theft
 - h. Stealing another person's _____ – their innocence...reputation...virtue
 - i. Stealing from _____

"Not to share our own wealth with the poor is theft..." (Chrysostum)

2. Corporate, institutional theft

- a. Credit theft/_____: lending money at exorbitant interest
- b. _____ – inordinate accumulation
- c. Oppressive wages and work conditions
- d. _____ theft
- e. _____ theft

B. We steal from the Lord

1. We rob the Lord of the _____ He has given to us

"What do you have that you did not receive?" (First Corinthians 4:7)

- a. Our finances;
- b. Our _____;
- c. Our talents

2. We rob the Lord of the _____ that He is due

- a. We steal because of _____ --distrust in God's sovereign goodness
- b. We steal because of _____

II. Stewardship

We protect, _____, and enhance God's resources for His glory

If God's law were the only reality--we would all be "_____"

Good news: this is not the only reality--our Lord is full of _____ as well as truth

III. CTK

Giving – _____ – the opposite of stealing

Jesus was a _____ of sinners – tax collectors and other thieves to the very end

Though sinless, He was "*numbered with the* _____" [Isaiah 53:12]

IV. The Gospel _____ us

A. To _____ well;

B. To _____ well;

C. To _____ well;

D. To _____ well

"See that you also excel in this grace of giving" [Second Corinthians 8:7b]

1. To love _____ --to make restitution

2. To love _____

Generosity is a _____ against stealing

E. The Gospel liberates us into joy