

# *You Shall Not Steal*

*“You shall not steal.” (Deuteronomy 5:19)*

Stealing is taking things that are not belonging to you and without permission. Stealing is not an acceptable thing and many they condemn it but yet you still find many they practice it. We will study stealing from the Scripture of the Bible.

*A- The Scripture speaks about the bad effects of stealing on the person who practice that as we can read in the following Scripture:*

*1- Proverbs 6:30-31* <sup>30</sup> *People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving.* <sup>31</sup> *Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.* According to what we read the thief may need to pay back seven times what he had stolen and even may caused him all the wealth of his house.

*2- Exodus 22:1* *“Whoever steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.”* According to what we read the thief may need to pay back five times what he had stolen.

*3- Exodus 22:2* *“If a thief is caught breaking in at night and is struck a fatal blow, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed;”* According to what we read the thief may lost his life on the spot.

*4- Exodus 22:3b* *“Anyone who steals must certainly make restitution, but if they have nothing, they must be sold to pay for their theft.”* According to what we read the thief might be sold to make restitution.

*5- Exodus 22:4* *“If the stolen animal is found alive in their possession—whether ox or donkey or sheep—they must pay back double.”* According to what we read the thief may need to pay back double what he had stolen.

*6- 2 Samuel 12:4-6* <sup>4</sup> *Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”* <sup>5</sup> *David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die!* <sup>6</sup> *He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”* According to what we read the thief may need to pay back four times what he had stolen.

So what we conclude from the above, there will be always penalty that the thief needs to pay more than what he had stolen. So stealing will not be of help to him but a burden

and will cost him more and this what the word of God tells us, <sup>d7</sup> *Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!”* <sup>18</sup> *But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.”* (Proverbs 9:17-18) Stealing did destroy the homes of those who steal, <sup>3</sup> *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.* <sup>4</sup> *The LORD Almighty declares, ‘I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of anyone who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in that house and destroy it completely, both its timbers and its stones.”* (Zechariah 5:3-4) God will curse the house of the person who steals.

*B- The Scripture speaks about the forms of stealing as we can read in the following Scripture:*

*1- Proverbs 28:24* *“Whoever robs their father or mother and says, “It’s not wrong,” is partner to one who destroys.”* Many they take advantage of their parents and try to abuse them and make them spend more on them, and they will say they are our parents and all what they have is for us. That is not correct, what your parents have is belong to God and they are steward of what the Lord gave them. Therefore you cannot grab away what they have only because you are their child; that is called stealing!

*2- Deuteronomy 19:14* *“Do not move your neighbor’s boundary stone set up by your predecessors in the inheritance you receive in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess.”* In the past they use stones to make boundary between one land and another. So those who will steal they will move the boundary stone toward their neighbor so their land and their territory will get increased. This is stealing and will bring curse on those who do that as we read in *Deuteronomy 27:17* *“Cursed is anyone who moves their neighbor’s boundary stone.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”* Therefore, *“Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors.”* (Proverbs 22:28)

*3- Proverbs 23:10-11* <sup>d0</sup> *Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, <sup>11</sup> for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you.”* There are people who take advantage of widows and orphans because they are weak, they think they have no one to help them, forgetting that the Lord is their watching the affairs of their lives and He will be the one to support them defend them.

4- <sup>2</sup> *There are those who move boundary stones; they pasture flocks they have stolen.* <sup>3</sup> *They drive away the orphan's donkey and take the widow's ox in pledge. <sup>4</sup>They thrust the needy from the path and force all the poor of the land into hiding.* (Job 24:2-3) Another form of stealing is taking sheep and flocks and taking advantage of widows and orphans. But, <sup>23</sup> *He may let them rest in a feeling of security, but his eyes are on their ways.* <sup>24</sup> *For a little while they are exalted, and then they are gone; they are brought low and gathered up like all others; they are cut off like heads of grain.* <sup>25</sup> *"If this is not so, who can prove me false and reduce my words to nothing?"* (Job 24:23-25)

5- *"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need."* (Ephesians 4:28) There are people who do not want to work but to live depending on others to feed them and provide for them, this is stealing.

6- <sup>9</sup> *Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them,* <sup>10</sup> *and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.* (Titus 2:9-10) There are people who practice stealing from their master and from the places they are working. Some they justify that their masters are rich so no problem if they will take some out from them. But that behavior is stealing, and it will not affect your master only but it harm you and affects you because it is sin and will bring curse on you. Some they say that stealing from government is right because government is rich. That is also stealing and will bring troubles and curse on those who do that.

7- <sup>20</sup> *Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor.* <sup>21</sup> *So the spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.* <sup>22</sup> *Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"* <sup>23</sup> *He saw through their duplicity and said to them,* <sup>24</sup> *"Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?"* *"Caesar's," they replied.* <sup>25</sup> *He said to them, "Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."* (Luke 20:20-25) We have to be honest with the government to show that we are honest with God. What is due for the government like tax, or fees for what they required from us we have to give, <sup>6</sup> *This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.* <sup>7</sup> *Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.* (Romans 13:6-7)

8- *"The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously."* (Psalm 37:21) Another form of stealing is when you borrow but you will not return back what you borrow.

9- <sup>1</sup> *Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.* <sup>2</sup> *Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.* <sup>3</sup> *Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.* <sup>4</sup> *Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.* (James 5:1-4) When you fail to give the workers whom you hire their wages then you are stealing. Some rich people they will be more taking advantage of the workers and they will not give them their rights because they think that they don't have power: <sup>22</sup> *Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,* <sup>23</sup> *for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life.* (Proverbs 22:22-23) God's word warns you from doing such evil thing against the people who are poor and weak.

10- <sup>8</sup> *Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'"* *"In tithes and offerings.* <sup>9</sup> *You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me."* (Malachi 3:8-9) Failing to bring your tithes correctly and your offering is another kind of stealing not from man but from God.

11- <sup>6</sup> *He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it."* (John 12:6) Judas Iscariot was taking some money out of the treasury without permission. Taking money out of the treasury of the church without the knowledge and approval of the church is another form of stealing. Many church leaders they take people's tithes and offering and directly they put in their pockets bypassing the proper record and registration of the money in the church. This is another form of stealing and will bring a curse on those who practice it.

*My dear and beloved: "Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them."* (Hosea 14:9) as you agree to pray.

*My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that showed me clearly your ways. I acknowledge my sin \_\_\_\_\_ . I know now what is stealing, help me Lord to overcome and give me self-control so that I can continue walk in your ways knowing very well that you will be the one to provide for me as I continue to trust in you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*