

# RULES TO LIVE BY!

## 9. Do Not Steal



### Introduction

We have been looking at the last five commandments that deal with our relationships with other people. The first of these was; 'Do not murder' and the second was; 'Do not commit adultery'. Does anyone know what the next command is? Let's turn to Deuteronomy 5:19.

### Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:19

Probably none of us have put on a mask and gloves, and climbed through someone's window to steal, but we may discover that we have broken this commandment!

- ❶ In what ways do people often 'steal' from – the government, their workplace or boss, God and other people? Discuss each one.
- ❷ We have spoken about 'stealing' from the government. Some do that by cheating on taxes or taking advantage of other government bodies. Read Romans 13:6-10. As Christians how are we to act towards our government?

*(We are to pay our taxes and revenues because God has put the government over us. Also we are to respect and honor our government leaders.)*

- ❸ Not only are we to return to the government what we owe them, but we are to do the same to one another. Have you ever borrowed money or personal belongings from someone else? Why is it important we repay or return what we have borrowed? v8-9

*(By not repaying we become guilty of breaking the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment – 'Do not steal.' As Christians we are to love one another, and the way to love is to repay our debts and return what does not belong to us.)*

- ❹ What can we learn from the following verses about borrowing from others? Psalm 37:21, Proverbs 22:7
- ❺ Have you ever had someone borrow from you and never repay? What did you do? How did that affect your relationship with that person? Share.
- ❻ Many people think it is acceptable to steal from their workplace or boss, as everyone does it! What should our attitude be according to God's Word? Colossians 3:22-24

*(We should work with all our heart, not only when our boss is watching, but even when he is not, as we are really working for the Lord.)*

- ⑦ Not only is it possible to steal from others, but we can also rob God. How is it possible to do so, and what are the consequences? What blessing will follow when we obey? Malachi 3:6-12

*(We rob God when we don't give our tithes and offerings to Him. As a result we are under a curse, however if we obey God and give as He requires He promises to bless us.)*

## **Conclusion**

No, we may not have pulled on a mask and climbed through someone's window holding a gun, but have we taken from the government, or our boss? Perhaps we have borrowed from others and never returned? Or have we failed to give to God what belongs to Him? Jesus showed us that God is not only concerned about the letter of the Law, but also the spirit of the Law. Let's allow Him to search our hearts. If He brings anything to our minds that we need to put right, let's do that as soon as we can.

### **Psalm 119:59-60, 165**

*"I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.  
I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.  
Great peace have they who love your law  
and nothing can make them stumble."  
Amen!*