

GOD IS GENEROUS



God will supply all your NEEDS according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Walking with Jesus - Part 3: Stealing



Bible Study:

We are continuing to 'count down' the 10 commandments. The goal is to help kids see that each of the the 10 commandments gives us a glimpse into God's Good Nature (His Law). This is emphasized in 2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

This week is commandment #8 - do not steal. True obedience to this command begins by letting God's GENEROUS nature get inside of us.

To illustrate, we told the story of two individuals Achan and the widow from Zarephath (Joshua 7 and 1 Kings 17:8-14). Achan lived during a prosperous time as God was handing over the Promised land to the Israelites. Yet, he still chose to steal items that didn't belong to himself. It started with coveting, then gave way to full-blown theft and deception.

The widow who lived in Zaraphath had almost nothing - a handful of flour and a few drops of olive oil. Yet she generously gave it to Elijah when he asked, trusting that God would provide.

This provides an Old Testament backdrop to a New Testament example: the Church in Philippi. Members of that church gave generously to Paul's missionary efforts (Please see Philippians 4).



The gospel in the story:

The 10 commandments are MUCH MORE than rules from a long time ago that are no longer relevant. Jesus promised that He did not come to abolish the Law. And the New Testament is not a new theology, it is a CLEARER glimpse into God's LAW which is His Nature. When, by the power of Jesus and Holy Spirit, our relationship with Father God is restored through the work of the cross, God's nature begins to take over our old hearts and form us into the new creations promised in Scripture. THEN, obedience isn't about following rules, it's about God's LAW (Good Nature), where living out God's commandments flows out of us naturally!

Application:

Head: What did we learn?

Q: What is at the heart of stealing? A: Selfishness, believing that we do not have enough/discontentment

Q: How did the widow reflect God's heart? A: By giving generously

Q: What is God's most generous gift to us? A: Forgiveness from sin

Heart: Memory Verse:

"God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Jesus Christ" Philippians 4:19

Hands: How does this affect the way we live?

When we understand that spiritually, we are RICH beyond all measure and there is nothing we can do to improve our situation beyond that, Christ becomes the object of our affection and thus we grow to be more like him. We tend to become more like that which we admire. Glorifying Christ brings true contentment.



Prayer:

Take a moment to listen and pray the lyrics of this hymn. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace."