



# LESSON 13

# The Ten Commandments, Part 8

*“Grace means nothing to a person who does not know he is sinful and that such sinfulness means he is separated from God and damned. It is therefore pointless to preach grace until the impossible demands of the Law and the reality of guilt before God are preached.”*

**JOHN MACARTHUR**

## **Kirk's Comment**

This Commandment really serves to wake up the conscience. It is wonderfully effective in alerting individuals to the serious condition of their hearts. Remember, petty theft is still theft.

## QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

*“Aren't there some circumstances when violating God's Law is justified?”*

A man's wife is dying. She needs medicine that is available at only one store, and it's currently closed. They're too far from any hospital, and the man doesn't have enough money to buy the medicine even if the store were open. So he breaks in that night, steals the medicine (and doesn't touch anything else), and saves his wife's life. Is this morally incorrect? Is this a sin?





of an armored truck onto the interstate. Panic-stricken motorists screeched their vehicles to a halt and stuffed bills into their pockets. Motorcyclists were seen cramming their helmets with cash, and speeding off into the distance. Two paramedics handed police \$120,000. They returned the cash only because they suspected it was drug money and therefore “marked.” Around \$450,000 is still missing.

Sinners will often dig deep into the realm of fantasy to try to justify theft. They will say, “Are you telling me that if a man steals a loaf of bread to feed his starving children that God calls that theft?” The answer is yes. It is theft and the Bible says that he should make restitution for his crime. If a man is hungry, he should beg before he steals. A sinner will often admit to stealing but say that it was just a bar of candy when he was young. Or he will say that he has stolen once, but has since reformed. He must be told that time doesn’t forgive sin, and that God still sees the sins of yesterday as if they were committed today. Stop his mouth using the Law (Romans 3:19). Show him that the only way to escape the terrible consequences of his sin is the Door of the Savior. Let the hurricane of the wrath of the Law of God blow far from him the scanty leaves of self-righteousness. Have him admit his transgression by name—that he is a thief. Then point to (and have him read) 1 Corinthians 6:9,10.

Charles Finney said, “This Law, then, should be arrayed in all its majesty against selfishness and enmity of the sinner. All men know that they have sinned, but all are not convicted of the guilt and ill dessert of sin. But without this they cannot understand or appreciate the gospel method of salvation. Away with this milk-and-water preaching of a love of Christ that has no holiness or moral discrimination in it. Away with preaching a love of God that is not angry with sinners every day.”

## QUESTIONS

1. Why is the value of a stolen item irrelevant?





**Robin Banks:** “Yes. I went to Sunday school, but grew out of it when I got older.”

**Christian:** “By the way, my name’s Christian. What’s yours?”

**Robin Banks:** “Robin Banks.”

**Christian:** “Nice to meet you. Do you consider yourself to be a good person . . . I mean, have you kept the Ten Commandments?”

**Robin Banks:** “Pretty much.”

**Christian:** “Have you ever told a lie?”

**Robin Banks:** “Yes.”

**Christian:** “What does that make you?”

**Robin Banks:** “A liar.”

**Christian:** “Have you ever stolen something?”

**Robin Banks:** “You are laying a guilt trip on me.”

**Christian:** “Really? Which Commandment makes you feel guilty—You shall not lie?”

**Robin Banks:** “No.”

**Christian:** “You shall not steal?”

**Robin Banks:** “I really don’t want to talk about this anymore.”

**Christian:** “I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to offend you. What do you do for a living?”

**Robin Banks:** “I . . . um . . . I work in a bank. I’ve got to go now . . .”

## WORDS OF COMFORT

I once made a 15-foot-long wooden seat for the inside of a bus I had purchased. I was thrilled that, for a change, everything worked out fine. Then I turned my energy to the seating to go along the wall on the *other* side of the bus. I determined that I wasn’t going to blow it, so I did everything



*identical* to the first one. I made an exact replica, knowing that I couldn't go wrong if I did so. It was only when I picked it up to turn it around to fit against the other wall that I realized my little error. There was a *clunk!* as it hit the wall of the bus. The seat was 15 feet long, but the bus was only about 10 feet wide—I couldn't turn the seat around to put it against the wall.

I loved that bus. We put Bible verses around the outside and painted a large picture of a man in a coffin on the back of the bus. Piled around him were masses of money, and underneath were the words, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" For some reason we didn't get too many tailgaters.

It was a big bus. In fact, it was so big that I steered the thing while Sue worked the pedals. One day I was driving through the city and found that it was too big to make it around a corner. I carefully checked the rearview mirrors and backed up. Then I heard a sound I will never forget: a high-pitched *Ne-ne-ne-ne-ne-ne!* followed by a *scrrrrraaaaaape*. I checked my mirrors again—nothing there. I drove forward. Again I heard the mystifying *scrrrrraaaaaape*, so I pulled in around the corner to check what I thought was something dragging under the bus. Suddenly, there was a feverish knock at the door. I opened it and saw a young man with a pale face. He had been stopped directly behind the bus in a very small car, when a coffin with "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" began heading toward him. He honked his car horn *Ne-ne-ne-ne-ne-ne!* as the bus scraped across the hood of his car—taking the corpse, the coffin, and the Scripture right up to his windshield. Poor man.

## Memory Verse

*"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

**MARK 8:36,37**

## Last Words

Socrates (470–399 B.C.), Greek philosopher of whom Plato was so proud:

**"All of the wisdom of this world is but a tiny raft upon which we must set sail when we leave this earth. If only there was a firmer foundation upon which to sail, perhaps some divine word."**