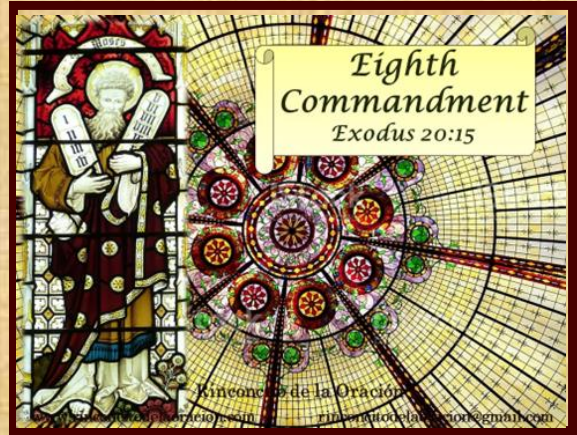


According to Exodus 20:15 The Eighth Commandment says: “*Thou shalt not steal.*”



What does The Eighth Commandment order?

The Eighth Commandment commands that we seek and promote by every lawful means the prosperity and welfare for ourselves and for all others. Commandment repeated in Deuteronomy 5:19
Romans 12:17 – Proverbs 27:23 – Leviticus 25:35 – Philippians 2:4

What does The Eighth Commandment forbid?

The Eighth Commandment forbids anything that hinders or could unjustly hinder the prosperity and welfare for ourselves or our neighbors.

1 Timothy 5:8 – Proverbs 28:19 – Proverbs 21:6 – Job 20:19-20

Conclusion: The purpose of this commandment is to forbid us from procuring the goods of others in an incorrect, illegal way, and consequently commands us to faithfully preserve our own goods (because everything we have is by grace received), as the fact of assuming responsibility for the goods of others.

This commandment is violated in various ways: deception, fraud, embezzlement, misappropriation, usurpation of rights, theft. The latter being the most obvious way to violate it by taking or stealing other people's property without authorization.

When God delivered Jericho to Joshua and his men of war, He set a condition, that they should not touch, nor take anything from the anathema (cursed things), for it would not be a matter of them making anathema (cursed) the camp of Israel. Whatever they found in Jericho even if they were "... *men and women, young and old, even oxen, sheep, and asses...*" (Joshua 6:21) they were to be destroyed with the blade of the sword.

But there was someone who did not take Jehovah's words into consideration. Achan, from the tribe of Judah, ignored and disobeyed the Lord. Temptation overcame his honesty and integrity and obedience to Jehovah; as a result, Jehovah's wrath was kindled, not only against him but also against the children of Israel. (Joshua 7:1)

Achan was captivated and gave in to temptation. Most times temptation begins with the sight that is a window of our soul. One looks, desires, greeds and it is very likely that this happened when Achan found a striking Babylonian cloak, added to certain amount of

money and a gold bar. The idea of appropriating the spoils of war was exceedingly tempting and perhaps in his foolishness and clumsiness he must have thought that God would not notice since he had buried them "... *they are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.*" (Joshua 7:21)

Achan ignored the commandment, turned a deaf ear to Jehovah's warning. He thought he was skilled and cunning enough to steal these goods without anyone noticing it, not even Jehovah. He didn't even think about the consequences, because he was so sure of himself. But he was wrong, because of his disobedience he was punished along with all his family and possessions.

It so happens that sin always has a sort of "I don't know what", catching trap attraction, it is tempting, it demands our attention. One must be a person of integrity, with values and strong foundations in the Lord to overcome temptation and not fall into that fleeting and deceptive pleasure that sin causes. In the same way that theft was exposed before Jehovah and the people of Israel (Joshua 7:23), all sin eventually comes to light and is exhibited before the sinner and his surroundings, bringing shame and humiliation.

Sin is like walking along the edge of a cliff, if you don't have your eyes straight on Jesus, if you don't have faith, you get distracted looking sideways or down, you're going to get dizzy, you'll fall into the abyss and you'll get yourself killed.

May God help us to recognize and obey this and every commandment before we break them! If we give in and open the door to temptation, it will be a great opportunity for the "enemy" to come in and gain victory. An enemy that is always on the lookout to jump on its prey. Let us be sober and watch "... *for your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion, walks around looking for someone to devour...*" (1 Peter 5:8).

And what communion does light have with darkness? None at all!

We must be imitators of the Lord, who always acts according to what is right by abominating all unrighteousness, because "*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all His ways are judgement: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.*" (Deuteronomy 32:4)

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