

## Don't even think about it!

**SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 5:11-21**

- Malachi 1:6-8
- God deserves our best but instead we opt to give God mediocre sacrifices and offerings. We content ourselves with half-baked offerings often accompanied by a grumbling heart.
- God is not pleased with these kinds of offerings. He will not accept mediocrity.
- God gave us His best in Jesus Christ, so in turn He only deserves our best. Nothing less.

**# 8 Deuteronomy 5:19 *You shall not steal***

- Ephesians 4:28
- God does not want us to steal, rather He wants us to work. We are told to work not just to have but also to be able share to others. We are supposed to be a channels of God's blessings
- Always bearing in mind when God provides it is never leftovers
- Are we guilty of stealing?
- To steal means to take and carry away, feloniously, to take without right or leave and with intent to keep wrongfully
- Often we are tempted to take things that do not belong to us, giving in to the temptation to take is stealing, may it be a small thing as a pen taken from the office
- How do we steal from God? Malachi 3:11-12
- When we only give our leftovers – whether it be out time, our talents or our treasures – God wants those from us given with a grateful and joyful heart. Withholding these from God is thieving from Him.

**# 9 Deuteronomy 5:20 *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.***

- Bearing false witness can be two things:
  1. to lie – which is a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive, mislead causing to believe in error
  2. to deceive – which is an act or practice intending to mislead by false appearance or statement
- Satan is the father of lies, the master of deception and lies
- How do we bear false witness?  
By outright falsehood, by making false promises, by flattery, false doctrines, hypocrisy, by saying half truths, by deceiving ourselves
- God tells us to always tell the truth.
- Ephesians 4:25 says ***Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.***
- But we also have to be careful that when we tell the truth let us bear in mind Ephesians 4:29 ***Let no <sup>[a]</sup>unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification <sup>[b]</sup>according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.***

**# 10 Deuteronomy 5:21 *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.***

- What does covet mean?
- Covet can mean 2 things: (1) to wish for with eagerness and (2) to long for inordinately, to lust for
- What does James 1:14-15 tell us about lust? ***But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin <sup>[a]</sup>is accomplished, it brings forth death.***

- Take for example the story of King David in 2 Samuel. It first started when he did not go with his army to the field of battle one day, he became lazy and stayed home. Later in the day, he saw Bathsheba bathing and was overcome with lust. He then gave into his lust and had her brought to him and he lay with her. Later when she conceived, he had her husband Uriah called from the battlefield and he tried to coerce him to lay with his wife but he did not, David then conspired to have him killed.
- God then sent the prophet Nathan to him to rebuke him. Nathan tells David ‘ *God says It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your <sup>[e]</sup>care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! <sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight?*
- We too often fall into the trap of wanting more and more. We always think that it is always greener on the other side of the fence forgetting that wherever we are, who we are with, what we have have been chosen by God for us. We are exactly where God wants us to be. We have exactly what God wants us to have. We are with the exact person that God has handpicked for us.
- Contentment cannot be found in location, material possessions, in physical appearances – contentment is found in knowing and accepting that God’s will is perfect and He has put us in the center of His will.

How can we apply this in our life?

1. Always keep your heart I check. (Jeremiah 17:9)
2. Keep your mind checked. (2 Corinthians 10:5)
3. Keep your mouth in check. (Psalm 19:14)
4. Choose to love. (Romans 13:9-10)





**OBSERVATION:**

Study the passage. Who are the characters in the passage? What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Read the bible verses cited above. Which bible verse spoke to you the most?
2. Among the three commandments discussed, which one is closest to your heart?
3. How can you practice the application points in your life?
4. Which of the 4 applications points will be the hardest for you to do?

**APPLICATION:**

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: How have you been guilty of stealing? Are you also guilty of withholding from God what is His?          How have you been bearing false witness? Do you profess to be a follower of Jesus and yet live a life concentrated on what this world has to offer?          Have you coveted, thinking that you could do better, you can have better? What are the things you think are on the other side of the fence? Are these your idols?</p>
	<p>Family: As a family, how have you become witnesses for God? Do the people around you see Jesus in your lives?          Is there something that you want or desire that is taking precedence in your life over worshipping God?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Do people around you see the love of Jesus?          How do you share or emulate the love of Jesus to others?          By looking at your life – your words and actions, can they tell you are a follower of Jesus?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry?          How can you best be a witness of God’s grace and love?          How do intend to show that you are a follower of Jesus? (Be specific)</p>

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.