

Women's Bible Study

10 Apps for Life

App #8: God's Property – Exodus 20:15

Gretchen Steer – November 10, 2010

Intensive Study Questions

Key verse: "You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)

1. What attitude towards God do we betray when we steal what belongs to someone else? Why would God be grieved by us stealing?

2. Look at Exodus 22:22. What is God's attitude towards the poor and dispossessed? Why might orphans and widows need extra help? Do we still have the same responsibility towards widows and orphans in our culture today? Why or why not?

3. If the laws against stealing protect individual property, what is God's attitude towards acquiring property and wealth? Find two passages in scripture, either O.T. or N.T., that indicate God's attitude towards the rich. Is it wrong to acquire property and wealth? Why or why not?

4. Is it ever right to steal? Does our motive (i.e., feeding our starving children) make a difference in God's attitude toward that sin? Give a biblical example of someone who stole. What was the situation, and what was the outcome?

5. What should our attitude be towards someone who has stolen from us? Give some examples of modern day stealing that go beyond simply taking someone else's physical property. How else, or what else, do we steal? Is God's attitude towards those types of stealing the same as Exodus 20:15 voices?

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Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever stolen anything? How did it affect your conscience? Were you caught, and if so, how were you punished?

2. Much of our civil law concerns how to protect people's property rights. What would society be like if there were no laws protecting personal property? Do you think it's possible to form a society where all things are held in common? Why or why not? Does the Bible call us to have that approach to personal property?

3. God calls us to be stewards of HIS property - this earth and everything in it. How is being a steward different than owning something?