

## SERMON OUTLINE

<b>SERMON TITLE:</b>	Integrity: Don't Leave Home Without It
<b>SERMON REFERENCE:</b>	Exodus 20:15
<b>LWF SERMON NUMBER:</b>	#1862

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) This commandment, “Thou shalt not steal,” is one of God’s great laws for living.
  - i) Exodus 20:15
- b) America has forgotten the basic rules of honesty.
- c) Anytime we take something that belongs to someone else or keep from someone what we owe them, we have transgressed this commandment.
  - i) It might be time.
  - ii) It might be money.
  - iii) It might be affection.
  - iv) It might be possessions.
  - v) It might be courtesy.
  - vi) It might be appreciation.
  - vii) It might be love.
- d) If we defraud someone else, then we have taken that which does not belong to us, and we are guilty of stealing.
  - i) To extort, to burglarize, to defraud, to filch, to cheat, to misappropriate, to rob, to swindle, to swipe, to embezzle.
- e) We are to teach our children the meaning of this commandment.
  - i) Deuteronomy 6:7
- f) Ephesians 4:28 is an explanation of this commandment found in Exodus 20:15.
  - i) There are three principles or characteristics within this passage that parents should emblazon upon the hearts and minds of their children.
    - (1) Integrity: *“Let him that stole steal no more.”*
    - (2) Industry: *“But rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good.”*
    - (3) Generosity: *“That he may have to give to him that needeth.”*

2) INTEGRITY

- a) There are many ways to live without integrity and many forms of stealing.
  - i) Direct stealing
    - (1) Shoplifting
    - (2) Armed robbery
    - (3) Burglary
    - (4) Workplace theft; embezzlement
  - ii) Fraud; white-collar crime
  - iii) Half-hearted work
    - (1) Colossians 3:22
  - iv) Employers not paying a fair wage.
    - (1) Colossians 4:1
    - (2) James 5:4
  - v) Tax evasion
  - vi) Insurance manipulation

- vii) Taking unfair advantage of others.
- viii) Gambling
  - (1) Gambling is morally wrong.
  - (2) No one can win at gambling without someone else losing.
  - (3) Legitimate business is win-win.
  - (4) In gambling, for every winner there must be a loser.
    - (a) Gambling is profit and pleasure at someone else's pain and loss.
    - (b) Gambling is an attempt to put something in your pocket that belongs to someone else without giving him anything for it.
  - (5) Habakkuk 2:6
- ix) Withholding love and devotion.
  - (1) The Bible commands that one spouses not defraud the other of sexual love.
  - (2) Withholding love from your neighbor is defrauding them.
  - (3) Romans 13:8
  - (4) Some children defraud their parents of honor.
  - (5) Some parents defraud their children of guidance, instruction and love.
- x) Many steal from God.
  - (1) Have you given Him your life?
    - (a) We are His by creation; God made us.
    - (b) We are His by redemption; Christ died for us.
    - (c) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
  - (2) Tithing is an emblem and symbol that everything belongs to God.
    - (a) Malachi 3:8
- xi) We also steal from ourselves when we steal from God and others.
  - (1) Jeremiah 5:25

### 3) INDUSTRY

- a) Work is not bad nor a curse; work is good and is a blessing.
- b) We must teach our children and young people the duties of honest work and labor.
- c) 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- d) God commands labor.
  - i) Exodus 20:9-10
  - ii) The children of Israel understood this command.
    - (1) The rabbis of old have taught that he who does not teach his son a trade teaches him to steal.
- e) Work is a gift from God.
  - i) Ecclesiastes 5:18-19
    - (1) God gives us work and the fruit of our work.
- f) Today's society and political environment takes a different view on work than the Biblical standard.
  - i) You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the industrious out of it.

- ii) You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it.
- iii) Government cannot give to someone something that it doesn't first take from someone else.
- iv) When someone receives something without working for it, someone else has to work for it without receiving it.
- v) A nation cannot thrive when half of its people believe they don't have to work because someone else will work for them, and the other half believe it does no good to work because they don't get to keep what they work for.
- vi) Rather than working for the pleasure and joy of cooperating with Almighty God and running the world that He's made for us, many today are only working in order to get enough money so that they can stop working.
- g) We need to teach our children and young people how to work.
  - i) Lamentations 3:27
  - ii) For children, their school work, music lessons, practice time, chores, paper routes, babysitting, etc., are work to them.
- h) We should never retire from serving God.
- i) The opposite of work is idleness.

#### 4) GENEROSITY

- a) The opposite of stealing is giving.
- b) We need to teach our children to work not only to meet their needs, but to also meet the needs of others.
- c) Acts 20:33-35
  - i) Adhering to this passage frees us from selfishness.
  - ii) Someone who learns to be selfish will also be miserable.
    - (1) Misery comes from mirrors; joy comes from windows, when we begin to pour out and give to others.
- d) In addition to money, there are many more things we can give and teach our children to give.
  - i) Give children understanding and they'll learn to give understanding to others.
  - ii) Give acceptance.
  - iii) Give forgiveness - don't let bitterness poison you or your children.
  - iv) Give love - do good no matter what is done to you.
- e) John Wesley: "Make all you can, save all you can and give all you can."
- f) Teach children to help their neighbors.
- g) Teach children to bring their own allowance to church for the tithe and offering.
- h) Teach children to participate in mission projects.
- i) Teach children how to give to their brothers and sisters.
- j) You teach them by precept and by example and do it consistently.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) We belong to God; have you given your life to Him?
  - i) Jeremiah 5:25
- b) All we accumulate in this life we will one day leave.
  - i) Mark 8:35
  - ii) John 10:10
- c) Don't let Satan, the biggest thief, steal from you the abundant life that Jesus wants to give you.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16