

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Eighth Commandment
“Freely Give!”
Exodus 20:15

Introduction:

1. In The Eighth Commandment:
 - God Tells Us:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Steal!”
 - Now - Even Though:
 - These Words Are:
 - Clear And Concise –
 - Like All Of The Other Commandments:
 - There Is Much More To This Commandment:
 - Than What’s On The Surface!
 - **IE:** Like An Iceberg Floating In The Ocean:
 - Only A Small Percentage Of Its Mass:
 - Is Seen Above The Surface!
 - And So It Is With The Commandments Of God!
2. Because - Not Only Does God:
 - Reveal His Will:
 - Through His Commandments:
 - He Also Tells Us More About:
 - The Nature Of:
 - Himself!
 - Ourselves!
 - And - Especially - The Great Gulf That Lies Between Us:
 - Because Of Our Sin By Breaking These Commandments!
 - Even As We’ve Been Using:
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 To Remind Us:
 - Of Just How Valuable:
 - These Ten Commandments Are!
 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!”
 - So - We’ve Been Looking At Each Commandment:
 - On Sunday Nights - Through The Lense:
 - Of This Verse!
3. And - We’ve Seen That:
 - The Primary Reason For The Eighth Commandment:
 - Is That Stealing Goes Against:
 - God’s Own Nature!
 - And - What Is His Nature Like?
 - God Is A Giving & A Generous God!
 - This Is The Doctrine / The Truth:
 - About Himself:
 - That He Wants To Keep Front & Center:
 - In Your Heart & Life!
 - God Is A Giving & A Generous God!
4. But - For The Most Part:
 - We Are Not!
 - We Are - As My Scottish Grandmother Used To Call Us:
 - When She Caught Us With Our Hands In The Candy Jar:
 - “Thieves And Robbers!”
 - Every One Of Us!
 - This Is The Truth & The Reproof About Us:
 - That We Considered From This Commandment:
 - A Couple Of Weeks Ago!
 - Even If You Have Never Taken:
 - Anything From Someone Else:

- That Does Not Belong To You!
 - You Have - Either Withheld Or Misused:
 - Much Of What God Has Graciously And Generously:
 - Provided To You! Like:
- Your Time!
 - Your Talents!
 - Your Things!
 - And - His Truth!
 - We Have Used And Improved:
 - So Little Of Them:
 - In Order To Glorify Him!
- And That Is - At Its Core:
 - Stealing!
- 5. So - What Are We To Do:
 - When We Are Confronted With These Truths:
 - About God - And:
 - About Ourselves?
 - Well - We Need To Remember Also:
 - That God Intends For His Commandments To:
 - Point Us To The Only One:
 - Who Can Help Us:
 - With Our Sin And Failures!
 - They Are Also “Profitable” For “Correction!”
 - And - The Correction We Need:
 - Is Found In The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Who - As God In The Flesh:
 - Possesses The Same Nature:
 - As A Giving & A Generous God!
 - And So - To Begin Tonight:
 - I Want Us To Consider Together:
 - The Giving Nature:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - All That He Had:
 - He Gave!

* And We See This First In:

1. *The Stewardship Of Jesus!*

- In Mark 10:8 - When Jesus Sent His Twelve Disciples:
 - To Share The Gospel:
 - “To The Lost Sheep Of The House Of Israel”:
 - He Told Them:
 - “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!”
- Well - Jesus Was One:
 - Who Practiced What He Preached!
 - Because He Too:
 - Was Freely Given Great Things From God The Father:
 - In Order To Fulfill His Mission In This World!
- And Jesus:
 - Faithfully And Freely:
 - Used What He Was Given:
 - To Glorify His Father!
 - He Was A Faithful Steward!
- In John 17 - We Find:
 - What Is Known As:
 - The High-Priestly Prayer:
 - Of Jesus To His Father!
 - And - In His Prayer:
 - He Shares - Not Only What He Was Given:
 - From His Father:

- But - What He Did:
 - With What He Was Given!
- Let's Look At John 17:
 - Where - Beginning In:
 - 17:1-2 - Jesus Says:
 - "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: / As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him!"
 - So - Here:
 - His Father Gave Him:
 - "Power Over All Flesh!"
 - And How Did Jesus Use That Power?
 - To "Give Eternal Life!"
 - Freely Jesus Had Received:
 - So - Freely:
 - He Gave!
 - Then - In:
 - 17:8 - Jesus Prays:
 - "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received [them], and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me!"
 - So - Here:
 - His Father Gave Him:
 - "The Words" And:
 - The Principles Of The Gospel!
 - And How Did Jesus Use Those Words?
 - He Said - "I Have Given Unto Them The Words Which Thou Gavest Me!"
 - Freely Jesus Had Received:
 - So - Freely:
 - He Gave!
- He Was A Good And Faithful Steward!
 - Then - In:
 - 17:9-10 - Jesus Says:
 - "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. / And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them!"
 - So - Here:
 - His Father Gave Him:
 - A People - "Then Which Thou Hast Given Me!"
 - And What Did Jesus Do For Those People?
 - He Prayed For Them!
 - But - Not Only Did He Pray For Them – For Us:
 - He Also Kept Them – And Us:
 - 17:12 - "Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost!"
 - Freely Jesus Had Received From His Father:
 - And - Freely:
 - He Gave!
 - We Also Find In:
 - 17:18 - How That:
 - His Father Gave Him:
 - A Purpose For Coming Into This World!
 - "As thou hast sent me into the world!"
 - Jesus Was Sent:
 - With A Purpose & A Mission!
 - And What Did Jesus Do With His Purpose?
 - He Fulfilled It & Then He Extended It - By Adding:
 - 17:18b - "Even so have I also sent them into the world!"
 - Freely He Had Received:
 - So - Freely:
 - He Gave!

- And - Even More - We Find:
 - In 17:22-23 - Jesus Adds:
 - “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: / I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me!”
 - His Father Gave Him:
 - Praise And Glory - Even In His Humanity!
 - And What Does Jesus Do With His Glory?
 - He Shares And Gives It To His People!
- Freely Jesus Had Received From His Father:
 - All Of These Things:
 - And So - In His Own:
 - Generous Nature:
 - He Gave What He Had:
 - To Others! To Us!
 - Jesus Christ:
 - Is The Greatest Steward:
 - This World Has Ever Seen!
 - All That He Had:
 - He Gave!

* But We Can Also See The Generous Nature Of Jesus In:

2. ***The Service Of Jesus!***

- When James & John Were Making Their Appeal To The Lord:
 - In Mark 10:37 - They Asked That Jesus:
 - Would “Grant Unto Us That We Might Sit, One On Thy Right Hand, And The Other On Thy Left, In Thy Glory!”
 - Of Course - The Response Of The Other Disciples Was Understandable!
 - Because Mark Records That “When The Ten Heard Of It, They Began To Be Much Displeased With James And John!” (10:41)
 - But - Do You Remember:
 - The Response Of Jesus To All Of His Disciples?
 - Mark 10:42-44 - “But Jesus called them [to him], and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. / But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: / And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all!”
 - And Then - Jesus Says These Unforgettable Words - 10:45 - “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many!”
 - Jesus Came To Minister!
 - Jesus Came To Serve!
 - And Serve He Did!
- He Served With His Work!
 - When Jesus Was On This Earth:
 - He Worked Hard!
 - Likely - From Sun Up To Sun Down:
 - He Did Everything He Could:
 - To Minister To The Needs Of Others!
 - How Many Times In The Gospels:
 - Do We Find Jesus:
 - Helping Others:
 - With Their Material Needs?
 - One Example Will Suffice:
 - When - In Matthew 14:13-22- After Jesus Heard About The Death Of His Cousin, John The Baptist - We Are Told That - “He departed thence by ship into a desert place apart!”
 - Clearly, This Was A Difficult Time:
 - In The Life Of Our Savior!
 - But What Did The People Do? Give Him The Time & Space He

Needed To Grieve? No!

- 14:13b - "And when the people had heard [thereof], they followed him on foot out of the cities!"

- They Just Couldn't Leave Him Alone!

- They Followed Him - Even Into "A Desert Place" - Without Making The Proper Plans For Themselves Or Their Families!

- But What Did Jesus Do? How Did He Respond?

- 14:14-22 - "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. / And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. / But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. / And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. / He said, Bring them hither to me. / And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to [his] disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. / And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. / And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children!"

- What Jesus Had - He Gave!

- And He Gave The Fullest Measure Of His Service:

- To Help Others:

- In Their Time Of Need!

- And Then - How Many Times In The Gospels:

- Do We Find Jesus:

- Healing Others:

- With Their Physical Needs!

- There In Matthew 14:14:

- It Says That - "Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick!"

- And Also - In Matthew 11:5 - When Jesus Responded To The Disciples Of John:

- He Said To Them - "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them!"

- All That Jesus Had - He Gave!

- And He Gave The Fullest Measure Of His Service:

- To Heal Those:

- Who Were In Desperate Need!

- Jesus Served With His Work! But Also:

- He Served With His Word!

- Even As He Said In Matthew 11:5:

- "The Poor Have The Gospel Preached To Them!"

- When Jesus Wasn't:

- Helping People:

- With Their Material Needs!

- When Jesus Wasn't:

- Healing People:

- From Their Physical Needs!

- Jesus Was Preaching And Teaching:

- In Order To Provide For:

- The Spiritual Needs:

- Of Those Around Him!

- Jesus Would Preach:

- On The Tops Of Mountains:

- And Along The Sand:

- Of A Seashore!

- He Would Teach:

- In The Synagogues Of The Jews:

- As Well As In The Homes:

- Of His Friends!

- Wherever He Went:

- He Took The Opportunity:

- To Share:

- "The Words Of Eternal Life!" (John 6:68 - Peter)

- What A Generous Savior We Have!

- All That Jesus Had:

- He Gave!

- Jesus Christ:

- Is The Greatest Servant:

- This World Has Ever Known!

* And - Of Course - His Generosity Can Be Even Further Seen In:

3. ***The Sacrifice Of Jesus!***

- The Greatest Display:

- Of Christ's Service:

- Is Stated For Us In:

- Matthew 20:28 And Mark 10:45:

- "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many!"

- Jesus Gave Himself:

- To Save!

- In Galatians 1:4:

- Paul Reminds Us That:

- It Was The Lord Jesus Christ:

- "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father!"

- Here - Jesus "Gave Himself" To Be:

- Our Rescuer:

- Our Deliverer:

- From This "Present Evil World!"

- What A Sacrifice:

- It Must Have Been:

- For Jesus!

- Who Left The Eternal Glories Of Heaven:

- In Order To Rescue Poor Sinners Like Us!

- Paul Puts It Another Way:

- In 2 Corinthians 8:9 - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich!"

- Then - In 1 Timothy 2:5-6:

- Paul Describes Jesus As:

- The "One Mediator Between God And Men":

- Because He "Gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time!"

- Here - Jesus "Gave Himself" To Be:

- Our Ransom!

- He Became The Price:

- That Needed To Be Paid:

- So That We Might Be Free From Condemnation & Receive Eternal Life!

- What A Sacrifice:

- It Must Have Been:

- For Jesus!

- Who Suffered In All The Way That He Did:

- "That He Might Bring Us To God!" (1 Peter 3:18)

- And Then - In Titus 2:14:

- Paul Reminds Us That It Was Jesus:

- "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works!"

- Jesus "Gave Himself" To Be:

- Our Redeemer:

- So That He Might Take Us:

- Who Were Once His Enemies:

- And Make Us:

- His Friends!
- “A Peculiar People, Zealous Of Good Works!”
- What A Generous Savior We Have!
 - All That Jesus Had:
 - He Gave!
 - He Even “Gave Himself” - For Us!
 - And He Did So Out Of Nothing:
 - But Love!
 - Galatians 2:20 - “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me!”
 - Jesus Christ:
 - Is The Greatest Sacrifice:
 - Of All Time!

Conclusion:

1. Such As Jesus Had:
 - He Gave - Freely:
 - To Others - And Especially:
 - To Me & To You!
 - And Now:
 - What Are We To Do?
2. Jesus Now Says To You:
 - “Freely **Ye** Have Received, Freely Give!
 - First - To Him!
 - And Then - To Others!
 - This Is The “Instruction In Righteousness” That The Eighth Commandment:
 - Constrains Us To!
 - And That Is Why:
 - In Ephesians 4:28:
 - Paul Says - “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth!”
3. When You Remember:
 - The Generosity Of Your Savior:
 - In His Stewardship!
 - In His Service! And:
 - In His Sacrifice!
 - It Will Stir Up:
 - A Giving And Generous Spirit:
 - Within **You!**
4. So - For Tonight:
 - Remember These Precious Words:
 - Of The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!” (Matthew 10:8)

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