



Fear, Love & Trust

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Law/Gospel

Like Achan, who coveted and took items that belonged to another and had been dedicated to the Lord, I also break the Seventh Commandment whenever I am dishonest or fail to help my neighbor protect what is his. **Jesus is God in the flesh, and all that I have belongs to Him. He never broke the Seventh Commandment but instead took my sins to the cross, purging my transgressions.**

Take-Home Point

God commands that I respect my neighbor's things.

Bible Words

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.
Hebrews 13:16

Prayer

Lord God, help us to resist temptation to steal or deceive and to trust You to provide for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Achan's Sin

Joshua 7:10–26

With Moses' death, God raised up Joshua as a leader. Under his leadership, the army of Israel invaded Canaan and enjoyed many victories as God delivered their enemies. Things went well until they suffered an unexpected defeat. When Joshua asked the Lord why, God said someone had stolen spoils of war that He said to destroy.

Despite God's steadfast and abundant generosity, a man named Achan gave in to temptation and took a beautiful cloak, silver, and gold from a battle. At God's command, Joshua drew lots to find the offender by tribe, clan, family, and individual. Achan confessed his sin and told where he hid the treasure, but paid with his life for offending God and the community with his theft.

God is the giver of all good gifts (James 1:17). He provides all we need to support our bodies and lives. Stealing may show sinful dissatisfaction with the Lord's gifts, laziness, or an unwillingness to work. It results in shame, disappointment, separation from God, and discord with our neighbors. Instead, we should assist our neighbors in keeping and improving their property.

This commandment provides structure and order, just as God gave Joshua instructions for dealing with this sin for the good of the people. Had the sin gone undiscovered and unpunished, people may have doubted God's ability to see or punish sin. Disobedience would have spread.

Although God's response to this sin was just, the Lord demonstrates grace and mercy to sinners in His Son, Jesus, who took on human flesh. Where Achan stole, Jesus gave. The only thing Jesus ever took from us was our sins. He took them to the cross. In exchange, He gave us forgiveness and eternal life.

From the Catechism

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

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