



Sermon Notes – October 21, 2018

[#53] *Rescued from the Misplaced Faith of a Thief*

Deuteronomy 23:15–25

Children's Sermon: Gospel Review ⁱ

- #1 - God is the sovereign Creator of all things. (You belong to God.)
- #2 – You were created for His glory.
- #3 - God is just and is right to punish sin.
- #4 - God is merciful. He is kind to undeserving sinners. (Why)
- #5 - Jesus is God's holy and righteous Son.
- #6 - God put the punishment of sinners on Jesus. (**How** – What he did)
- #7 - God offers the free gift of salvation to those who **repent** and **believe** in Jesus.
 - * Those who trust in Jesus **will live to please Him**.
 - * Those who trust in Jesus will **enjoy God forever** in heaven.

Romans 3:23–24 (translation mine)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glory. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he paid the penalty for our sins.

Illustration: The good & merciful judge.

(close with a prayer of blessing)

New Colossus

"Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, With conquering limbs astride from land to land; Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand, A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame, Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name, Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand, Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command, The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame. "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she, With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Living in this Fallen World is Like being a Thief among Thieves

Self-reliant, Self-centered & Lawless (willing to cheat...)

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

Come out of the darkness and put on the God-trusting, self-sacrificing generosity of Christ



Notes:

Putting Flesh on Self-Sacrificing Generosity

Putting-off the World & Putting-on the Mind of Christ

Ephesians 4:17–25a, 28

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that *you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.*

¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But **that is not the way you learned Christ!**— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² *to put off your old self*, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to *be renewed in the spirit of your minds*, ²⁴ and to *put on the new self*, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore... ²⁸ *Let the thief no longer steal*, but rather let him labor, *doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

Do Not be Like Other Nations (23:15-18)

To Shelter Escaped (Foreign) Slaves is not Theft (23:15-16)

¹⁵ “You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. ¹⁶ *He shall dwell with you, in your midst*, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him. You shall not wrong him.

Prostitution & Dirty Money (23:17-18)

¹⁷ “None of the *daughters* of Israel shall be a **cult prostitute**, and none of the *sons* of Israel shall be a cult prostitute. ¹⁸ *You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute or the wages of a dog into the house of the Lord your God in payment for any vow*, for *both of these are an abomination to the Lord your God.*

God-Fearing Generosity & Respect in Israel (23:19-25)

Stealing as it Relates to Authority & Motives (23:19-20)

¹⁹ “**You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother**, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest. ²⁰ **You may charge a foreigner interest**, but you may not charge your brother interest, *that the Lord your God may bless you* in all that you undertake in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

(Cf. Deut. 15:6 – lend but not borrow)

Stealing from God – Paying Vows (23:21-23)

²¹ **“If you make a vow** to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for *the Lord your God will surely require it of you*, and you will be guilty of sin. ²² **But if you refrain from vowing**, you will not be guilty of sin. ²³ *You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips*, for you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Why make a vow?

Psalm 66:13–14, 16

¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you, ¹⁴ that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. ... ¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and ***I will tell what he has done*** for my soul.

Why make a vow and then forget about it?

Hoarding Produce and Stealing Produce (23:24-25)

²⁴ “If you go into your neighbor’s vineyard, **you may eat your fill of grapes**, as many as you wish, *but you shall not put any in your bag*. ²⁵ If you go into your neighbor’s standing grain, **you may pluck the ears with your hand**, *but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor’s standing grain*.

Putting Flesh on Self-Sacrificing Generosity

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Put on the obedient, God-reliant, God-confident, hard working generosity of Christ.



Trust God Not Riches

James 4:2b–3

² ...You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. ***You do not have, because you do not ask***. ³ You ask and do not receive, because ***you ask wrongly***, to spend it on your passions.

1 Timothy 6:17–19

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to **be rich in good works**, to **be generous and ready to share**, ¹⁹ thus **storing up treasure for themselves**

as a good foundation for the future, *so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

Self-Sacrifice Replaces Self-Centeredness

Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, *doing honest work with his own hands*, *so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

Integrity (Unwilling to cheat...)

1 Peter 3:13–15

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you will be blessed*. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

ⁱ Helping Children to Understand the Gospel