

The Eighth



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A LOOK AT GOD'S
UNWAVERING COMMANDS

Exodus 20:15 & Matthew 5:42



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Exodus 20:15
“You shall not steal”

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“What does God require in this commandment?”

Answer: “That I do whatever I can for my neighbor’s good, that I treat others as I would like them to treat me, and that I work faithfully so that I may share with those in need.”

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“Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you”

Matthew 5:42

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The Christian arrests the process of evil & hatred by their thoughts, actions & response to the world around them.

Salt & light. Preservative & guide.

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1 Corinthians 6:7

The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

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Jesus fulfills the Torah by interpreting it rightly & living it completely, and calls his followers to live out covenant loyalty in line with the values expressed in the Torah

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Lex Talionis

The Law of Retaliation

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Deuteronomy 19:16-21

“If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse someone of a crime, ¹⁷ the two people involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the Lord before the priests & the judges who are in office at the time. ¹⁸ The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against a fellow Israelite, ¹⁹ then do to the false witness as that witness intended to do to the other party. You must purge the evil from among you. ²⁰ The rest of the people will hear of this & be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. ²¹ Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”

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Romans 12:17-21

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the sight of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Romans 13:1-7 (submit to earthly authority)

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We obey the Law of God in heartfelt love of God & others; that we respond to others as God responded to us with grace & mercy.

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“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back”

Luke 6:35

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Alexander Maclaren

If turning the cheek would make the assaulter more angry, or if yielding the cloak would make the legal robber more greedy, or going the second mile would but make the press gang more severe & exacting, resistance becomes a form of love & duty for the sake of the wrongdoer.

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Jesus' advice isn't a set of mechanical rules, but principles for meeting the personal wrongs that come to those who follow Him.

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Jesus changes lives!

We no longer consider it our
duty to get even.

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Everything comes from Christ.
Jesus' sayings are hard - in fact,
impossible!

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It isn't that God simply says don't steal, but that we actively work for our neighbor's good.

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