



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: The Eighth Commandment

In this article, I will explain the meaning and implications of the Eighth Commandment, “Thou shalt not steal” (*Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19*). The ACNA Anglican Catechism *To Be a Christian* defines stealing as “the unauthorized and willful taking of what rightly belongs to another” (Question 331). Clearly, transgressing the Tenth Commandment (“Thou shalt not covet” – *Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21*) can lead to stealing. *Proverbs 1:10-19* warns against letting oneself be enticed by sinners who kill people in order to rob them, and the passage ends with the conclusion that greed for gain takes away the life of the greedy person. Of course, transgression of the Second Commandment is also involved, since the thief often idolizes what he steals by

regarding it as essential for him to steal it and have it. The man who fell among thieves in our Lord’s Parable of the Good Samaritan (*St. Luke 10:30-37*) was stripped of all the money and clothes he had, beaten, and left half dead (*St. Luke 10:30*). The robbers were so eager to rob him that their hasty violence nearly killed him.



Stealing is always without the victim’s permission. Even if the victim is forced to give permission for the thief to steal an item from him, it is still unauthorized and willful. The opposite of stealing is to receive from a person a gift freely given by the giver, provided that the gift itself has not been stolen from some-

one else!

Because God is Creator (*Genesis 1*), Lord of all the earth (*Psalms 24:1-2*), and all good things come from Him (*I Chronicles 29:14; St. James 1:17*), we must never take either what God has not entrusted to us (*Ephesians 4:28; To Be a Christian*, Question 332) or what others have not freely given us permission to take. For example, it would be wrong simply to walk into a neighbor’s front yard and pick lemons from his tree unless the neighbor had given one permission to do so.

Another reason that God forbids stealing is that stealing from another transgresses the commandment to love one’s neighbor, the commandment that includes all the commandments relating to our treatment of others (*Romans 13:9-10*).

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The Eighth Commandment

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We live in a world in which things are being stolen from people all the time. Not only do we read about shoplifting and store burglary, but also, we observe employers often not paying enough wages to people for them to be able to rent homes or afford the basic costs of living. One might say that increasing homelessness is at least partly caused by many people not receiving enough pay to rent a home, let alone buy one. Of course,

homelessness is a complex issue with many other contributing factors. Then there are some employees who try to do the least amount of work continually, in a sense stealing their employers' time.

Then we read about carjackings and bikejackings in the news. A teenager riding his bicycle is suddenly blocked by a car. Two men get out and snatch his bicycle and his cell phone so that he is left stranded. For those who use bicycles either for recreation or for transportation, a bicycle is a valuable possession.

How did God's law in ancient Israel teach respect for another's

property? The laws that deal with restitution for theft of animals are found in *Exodus 21:33-22:12*. The law of restitution usually required paying more than what was stolen (for example, five oxen for one stolen ox, four sheep for one stolen sheep - *Exodus 22:1*). Another law respecting the property of others was the command not to move the boundary stone or landmark of a neighbor's inherited property (*Deuteronomy 19:12; 27:17*). This was theft of a neighbor's land. In some cases, in history, this was not an individual matter, but whole communities and nations were forcibly removed from their ancestral land so that others could occupy it. Such crimes God does not allow to go unpunished. In the course of time, God will repay.

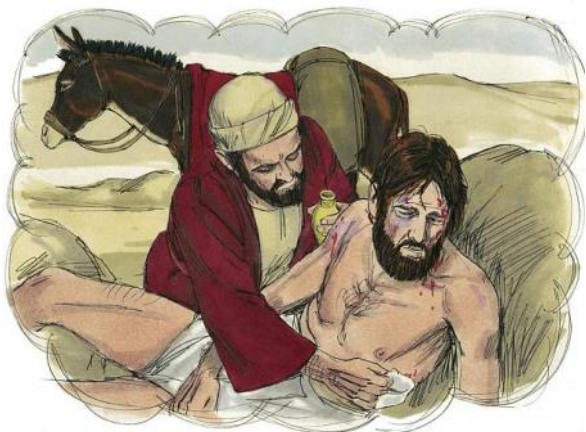
In *St. Luke 19:1-10*, when Zacchaeus meets Jesus, instead of receiving retribution for extorting more money from Jews than they owed in taxes, he shows his true repentance by announcing that he will give half his possessions to the poor, and if he has extorted any money from anyone on false charges, he will restore four times as much to that person (*St. Luke 19:8*). The Lord Jesus Christ accepts Zacchaeus' wholehearted declaration of repentance by saying, "This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham" (*St. Luke 19:9*,

KJV), adding after this, "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (*St. Luke 19:10*, KJV). By saying this, the Lord clearly indicates that theft and extortion practiced continually caused Zacchaeus to be lost and excluded from God's kingdom until he repented. St. Paul affirms the truth that living as a thief and extortioner excludes a person from God's kingdom (*I Corinthians 6:10*).

What other things besides property can be stolen? This question is answered in Question 334 of *To Be a Christian*: stealing or defrauding others of wages, identity, credit, intellectual property; cheating in school or on taxes; refusing to pay one's debts. Even stealing another's musical composition and passing it off as one's own falls under this head. The Christian way is payment of debt and restitution.

But how are we to approach life so as to obey this commandment continually? The answer really lies in obeying the Tenth Commandment, "Thou shalt not covet," and following the teaching of Jesus Christ who tells us that we cannot serve God and be a slave to greed at the same time (*St. Matthew 6:19-24*). Instead, we should always make God our priority and seek His kingdom first, trusting Him to

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The Eighth Commandment

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provide all that we need (*St. Matthew 6:33*). All that we possess, we hold in trust for God, and it must be used responsibly to His glory and for the care of our ourselves and our dependents, as well as for giving to the Church and to those in need. St. Paul highlights the proper Christian opposite of theft in these words:

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.

Ephesians 4:28,
KJV

The proper way of life replaces theft with hard work, responsible stewardship of income earned, and generosity.

– *The Reverend
Christopher Parrish*

A Prayer for Our Congregation

O GOD, Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray Thee, the Congregation of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills with Thy love and favour; enlighten our minds more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel; graft in our hearts a love of the truth; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, O blessed Spirit, whom, with the Father and the Son together, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. Amen.



A Prayer for the MDAS Search Committee

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously upon Thy Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop Coadjutor for the Missionary Diocese of All Saints that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for Thy people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Lord, have mercy upon us
and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known

unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness:

Archbishop Foley Beach;

Bishop Richard Lipka;
Canon Michael Penfield;
Father Chris Parrish;
Deacon Peter Vogel; and
Deacon Linda Bracken;

also all those who serve as Thy ministers in governing our nation and state, particularly:

President Joe Biden; and
Governor
Gavin Newsom;

as well as all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; especially those for whom our prayers are desired:

the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coasties, guardians, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day; our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world;

all refugees;

the leaders and people of Ukraine;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Joya de Rossett;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

Tanya Theiler;

Mark Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marian;

Flo;

Max;

Dan and Kendra Pack;

the Stanko family;

Yoshihiko Ikegami;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Mrs. Kitt;

Jon Carter;

Frank Capone;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

Moe Martinez;

Victoria Grace;

Christina;

John and Heidi Donnelly;

Father Mike Keppler;

Carl;

Judith Boreham;

Gary Winiger;

Marie and Wade;

Heather;

Susan;

Bishop Lipka; and

Helen Vanderberg;

that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.



***This prayer list was current as of July 28th,
and the people of St. Luke's will pray for each need
until we are notified that it has been met.
Please contact Father Parrish to add or remove names.
Thank you!***

Communication in a Disaster: How Can I Tell My Family I'm OK?

What about the Internet?

In my neighborhood there are two primary methods of connecting to the Internet: AT&T fiber and Xfinity cable. For fiber you may have a different service provider (for example, Sonic) but AT&T still owns the fiber lines. DSL connections were all forced to convert to fiberoptic lines about a year ago. A dial-up connection is still possible, but the number of people using that as their primary connection is small to non-existent.

Satellite connections exist but are not generally used where fiber and cable connections are available. I will cover satellite connections in a later article on exotic methods of communications.

My neighborhood has fiber to the home on a Gigabit Passive Optical Network that does not need power to transmit the signal to the central office. The central office should have generators to power it, so if the equipment and building are not damaged, fiber should continue to operate after an earthquake.

Older fiber installations could be Fiber-to-the-Curb, which needs power to maintain the connection.

Cable Internet will probably fail during a

wide-area power outage. There are many powered devices between the home and the Head-End Node, and if any lose power, the connection goes out. It is possible that local power outages might not affect any of those intermediate devices, so a local outage might not take out your connection, but a regional power outage would. It is possible that Xfinity has battery backup that could keep their systems operating for several hours, but you will have to check this out for your location.

If you have a working Internet connection, you will also need to have power for your local equipment. For a newer AT&T system it may be a single box that combines the Optical Network Terminal (ONT), router, and Wi-Fi. It may be a separate ONT and a router/Wi-Fi box. Cable systems will have similar connection boxes and Wi-Fi systems that need power. In addition, whatever device you use will need to be powered. Laptops and phones may have several hours of built-in battery, but desktop computers will need an external source of power.

An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) can provide hours of operation for the connection and is probably a good investment, especially to deal with local power outages. There are many

online resources to help size the UPS to your equipment and the time you want to operate with the power off.

Using a cell phone to send e-mail is probably the method that uses the least power to get a message out. A desktop uses far more power, and even a laptop does not have the battery operating time of most cell phones. E-mail is the best method of sending messages after a disaster since it is low bandwidth and has flexible routing that can find a way around local outages. System outages and intentional shutdowns to conserve power may reduce connection speeds and increase latency, so using a low bandwidth e-mail may be the best way to get a message out.

Next time, learn how to improve your chances of getting a message out with the options discussed so far.

– *Tim Slattery*

*This is Part Three
of Tim Slattery's
series on communications
following a disaster.*

Parish Postings

The Vestry will meet on Sunday, August 13th, following worship and fellowship. All interested parishioners are invited to attend.



Sunday, September 10th, has been designated Bring a Friend to Church Day. Invite a friend or two to join your Chapel Family for Morning Prayer as we give thanks and praise to God and share the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



Please note that the URL for St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills' website has changed. The former URL ended in **.church** which then redirected the user to a **.org** address. This complication has been eliminated, so the new address is:
www.StLukesChapel.org



The Vestry has chosen to collect funds to be donated to Family Giving Tree for the purchase of backpacks as the Community Outreach Mission project for July and August. With every \$35 donated, Family Giving Tree can provide one needy student with a backpack filled with necessary supplies. If you wish to make a donation to this mission project, please write *Family Giving Tree* on your check memo line or offertory envelope. Thank you!



Nudging our desire to interact with our community into action, a group from St. Luke's registered to volunteer at Second Harvest on July 24th. Father and Bridgitte Parrish, Deacon and Kim Vogel, Jana Baldwin, Ray Boreham, and Clark Patteson joined other volunteers to inspect and package over 2,800 5-pound bags of frozen chicken for immediate distribution.

Do you know of a service organization that

needs volunteers? Let Ray Boreham know!

Would you like to join a future group from St. Luke's in a community service project? Watch for notices in your Sunday bulletin and parish e-mail!



SECOND HARVEST
of SILICON VALLEY

This newsletter works best when it reflects our Chapel Family. Let your voice be heard! Your submissions of photos, articles, and news items are always welcome. Please see Kim Vogel if you have questions.



Upcoming Events

Friday, August 4th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, August 6th

The Festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM

Friday, August 11th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, August 13th

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
following the worship service

Friday, August 18th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, August 20th

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Friday, August 25th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, August 27th

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Friday, September 1st

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, September 3rd

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM





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A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
THE CONVOCATION OF THE WEST,
PART OF THE
MISSIONARY DIOCESE OF
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THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

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«AddressBlock»

Worship Schedule

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship and fellowship soon!

***"A place
where the Bible is taught."***



*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month

Holy Communion
(with Healing Service on First Sundays)
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Please note that Holy Communion will be celebrated on Feast Days occurring on second and fourth Sundays.

If you cannot join us physically in the Chapel,
please contact Father Parrish
to be added to each service's Zoom invitation.