

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: Honoring God with Our Possessions

Reading: Malachi 3:8-12

Today's passage challenges us to consider how we honor God with our resources. Just as the Israelites were called to bring their tithes and offerings, we too are invited to give back to God from what He has blessed us with. This act of giving isn't about meeting a quota, but about recognizing God's ownership over everything and our role as stewards. Reflect on how you manage the resources God has entrusted to you. Are there areas where you might be "robbing" God by withholding what belongs to Him? Consider not just your finances, but also your time, talents, and energy. How might you more fully dedicate these to God's purposes? Remember, when we honor God with our possessions, He promises to "open the floodgates of heaven" and pour out blessings upon us.

Day 2: Integrity in the Marketplace

Reading: Proverbs 11:1-3, 20:23

These proverbs highlight God's concern for honesty and integrity in our business dealings. In a world where cutting corners and bending rules might seem necessary for success, God calls us to a higher standard. He delights in those who are truthful and abhors deceit. Consider your own work ethic and business practices. Are there areas where you've compromised your integrity for the sake of gain? Remember that our actions in the marketplace are a reflection of our faith. When we conduct ourselves with honesty and fairness, we bear witness to God's character. Pray for the courage to maintain your integrity, even when it's costly, trusting that God sees and will honor your faithfulness.

Day 3: The Heart of Generosity

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Devotional: Paul's words to the Corinthians reveal the beautiful cycle of Christian generosity. When we give cheerfully and abundantly, God is able to bless us so that we can give even more. This isn't about material prosperity, but about experiencing the joy of partnering with God in His work. Reflect on your own attitude towards giving. Do you see it as a burden or a blessing? Ask God to cultivate a spirit of generosity in your heart. Consider ways you can be more generous, not just with money, but with your time, hospitality, and encouragement. Remember, our generosity is a response to God's indescribable gift of salvation through Christ.

Day 4: Contentment in Christ

Reading: Philippians 4:10-13

Paul's secret of contentment is a powerful antidote to the temptation of theft and greed. He learned to be content in every circumstance, whether in abundance or in need. This contentment wasn't based on his situation, but on his relationship with Christ who strengthened him. Consider the areas of your life where discontentment might be creeping in. Are there things you feel you "need" to be happy? Bring these before God and ask Him to help you find your satisfaction in Christ alone. Practice gratitude for what you have, rather than focusing on what you lack. Remember, true contentment comes not from having everything you want, but from wanting everything you have.

Day 5: Storing Up Treasures in Heaven

Reading: Matthew 6:19-24

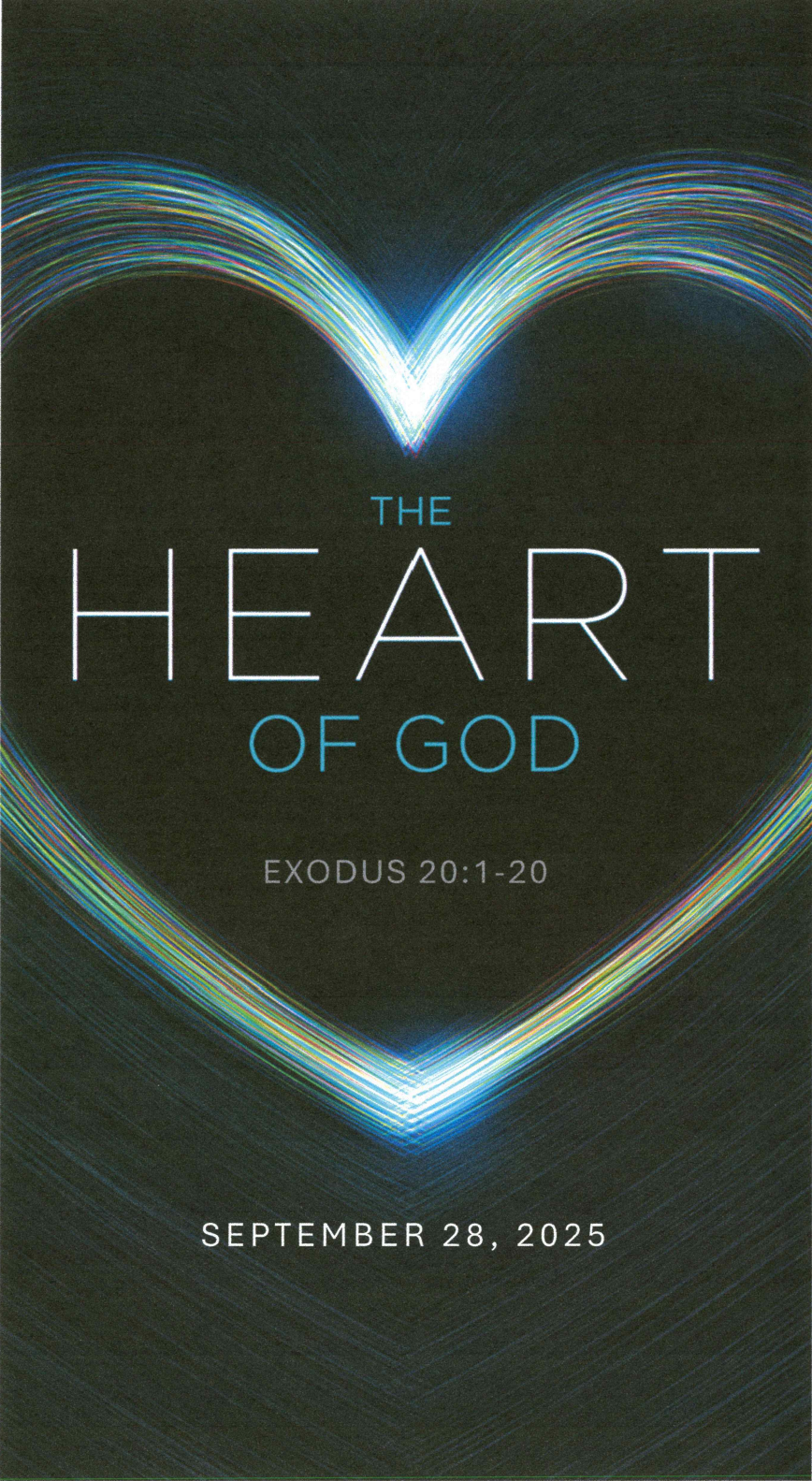
Jesus' teaching on treasures challenges us to shift our focus from earthly wealth to eternal riches. He's not saying that material possessions are inherently evil, but that our hearts should not be attached to them. Consider what you value most in life. Where are you investing the majority of your time, energy, and resources? Are you more concerned with accumulating wealth and possessions here on earth, or with building up treasures in heaven through acts of faith, love, and service? Ask God to help you see your possessions and wealth from an eternal perspective. Pray for wisdom in using what He's given you to advance His kingdom and bless others. Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

DEACONS ON CALL

Josh Bell and David Downs

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM



No Honor Among Thieves / Exodus 20:15

In our modern world, we're surrounded by constant reminders of the prevalence of theft. From locks on our doors to passwords on our phones, security measures have become so commonplace that we hardly notice them anymore. But have you ever stopped to consider what these precautions say about our society and, more importantly, about our own hearts?

I. A Few Ways that We Steal

1. We steal from _____.
2. We steal from the _____.
3. We steal by using _____.
4. We steal by not paying back _____.
5. We steal by cheating our _____.

II. It Pays to be Honest Because ...

1. God is _____.
2. We are being watched by _____.
3. We will _____ whatever we sow.
4. Dishonesty damages our _____.
5. God will reward our _____, in this life and in eternity.

Scripture References (In order of use): Malachi 3:8; Romans 13:6-7; Leviticus 19:13; Psalm 37:21; Amos 8:5; Job 34:21-22; Matthew 5:16; Galatians 6:7; Luke 9:25; Proverbs 10:2; Proverbs 28:20; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Luke 16:10; Matthew 25:21; 1 Corinthians 6:20
Referenced Works: The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott); Be Delivered (Warren Wiersbe); Ten Values that Build Strong Families (Rick Warren); Exodus (John Mackay); The Message of Exodus (Alec J. Motyer); Exodus (Peter Enns); Exodus & Leviticus (B. H. Carroll)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when you've experienced theft or felt violated by someone taking something from you. How did it make you feel?
2. Read **Exodus 20:15**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Patrick mentioned several ways we might steal without realizing it. Which of these surprised you the most? Why?
4. How does the idea of "stealing from God" challenge your perspective on tithing and bringing offerings?
5. How can we maintain integrity in a world where dishonesty seems prevalent and sometimes even rewarded?
6. How might our actions as Christians in matters of honesty and integrity serve as a witness to unbelievers?
7. Patrick said, "Whatever you give out in life is what you're going to get back." How have you seen this principle at work in your own life or in the lives of others?
8. How should the knowledge that God is omnipresent impact your decision-making, especially in areas where you might be tempted to be dishonest?
9. Discuss the concept of "stealing" in terms of not giving God what belongs to Him and the church (time, talents, life, spiritual gifts). How might this apply to your own life?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Take time this week to honestly evaluate areas where you might be "stealing" in subtle ways. Ask God for forgiveness and guidance on how to make changes.
- If you're not currently tithing, consider starting with a percentage of your income and gradually working towards a full tithe. If you already tithe, reflect on other ways you can be generous with your time and talents.
- If the Holy Spirit has convicted you of past theft or dishonesty, make a plan to make amends or return what was taken, if possible.