

Introduction: Confessions of a kleptomaniac

The **meaning** of the 8th Command

The **purpose** of the 8th Command

The **roots** of “kleptomania”

The Question: How do you overcome kleptomania?

Step #1: Face up to the facts

- We steal by **seizure**

Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.

Ephesians 4:28 (NASB)

- We steal by **deception**

Wealth you get by dishonesty will do you no good, but honesty can save your life.

Proverbs 10:2 (GNT)

- We steal by **defrauding**

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," when you have it with you.

Proverbs 3:27-28 (NASB)

Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me. But you ask, "How do we rob you?" in tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing Me.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit, says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 3:8-11 (NIV)

Step #2: Do a "P&L" of stealing's impact on your life

Step #3: Follow God's divine prescription guaranteed to restore kleptomaniacs

Discussion Questions:

1. Share with the group your earliest memory of stealing something. What was it? Why did you steal it? Share your most vivid memory of something stolen from you. How did it make you feel?
2. Different people steal for different reasons. Which of the three root causes of stealing mentioned do you think motivate people the most to steal? Why?
3. Why is God so adamant about not stealing? What and whom is He seeking to protect?
4. Which aspect of today's message was most applicable to your life? Is there a step of obedience (you feel free to share) that would protect you from the pain and consequences stealing brings in our lives?