



May 8, 2016  
Mother's Day  
Elevation · 11:00 am  
Pastor Matt Davis

## New Hands: From Stealing to Sharing Ephesians 4:28

*"He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need." Ephesians 4:28*

### Reject what destroys community: Hands that STEAL Ephesians 4:28

*"He who steals must steal no longer..." (v.28)*

- **Do not steal**  
*"You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)*
  - **Hands that steal from people**
    - **Our employers:** Deuteronomy 25:13-16; Proverbs 11:1; Deuteronomy 24:14; James 5:4
    - **Our government:** Romans 13:6-7, Matthew 22:15-22
    - **Our debt:** Leviticus 19:13, Jeremiah 22:13
    - **Our employees:** Ecclesiastes 9:10, Proverbs 13:4, Matthew 25:14-30
  - **Hands that steal from God.** Malachi 3:8-10, Acts 5:1-11
- **True repentance means to stop doing what is wrong, but also do what is right**  
*"...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)*
  - **A life free from stealing. Steal (κλέπτω (kleptō) "to steal")**
    - "I have money. The more money I have, the less happy I am." – Scott Disick from the Kardashian crew
    - "If I only had that dress, then I would be happy." – Vanya VanEssen
    - "Look at all of these things I don't need." – Ron Rogalski

### Promote what builds community: Hands that SHARE Ephesians 4:28

*"... but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good so that he will have something to share with one who has need..." (v.28)*

- **The prerequisite for generosity is work**  
*"... but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good..." (v.28)*
  - **Paul in Miletus with his elders**  
*"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:33-35)*
  - **The heart of a mom is to share**  
*"For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints." (Hebrews 6:10)*
- **The target of our generosity**
  - **Share with family.** 1 Timothy 5:8
  - **Share with the poor.** Galatians 2:10; 6:10; 1 John 3:17-18
  - **Share with a church ministry.** 2 Corinthians 8:1-6

## Digging Deeper:

Many in the secular world get it. The outflow of our work does not have its end in simply acquiring more wealth, but the work leads to generosity. At some point “getting” runs its course and those who get are then led to give. This subversive upside-down kingdom that Jesus prescribed way back in His “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5-7) is being lived out in the lives of some of the world’s wealthiest billionaires. Individuals like Warren Buffet, Bill and Melinda Gates and Mark Zuckerberg are joining together in the “Giving Pledge” to give away at least half of their wealth during their lifetimes or through their will.

As we have looked in this passage from Ephesians today, the goal and purpose that God has for His people is not reached when they simply quit stealing. And the goal and purpose that God has for his people is not reached when they labor hard with their hands, even doing good in order to possess the money they earn. The goal of God for His people, in all their gainful employment, is reached when they work in order to have so that they can give to those in need. The thief is to become a philanthropist. The person who did wrong in order to meet his own selfish desires must now work in order to contribute to someone else’s need.

This passage is part of a larger section from Ephesians 4:25-5:2. Some of this we have covered already and some is yet to come. The context for this section comes from Ephesians 4:17-24 where part of putting on the new self and laying aside the old self means that there needs to be movement from a negative behavior to a positive one, but also with appropriate motives.

Eph. 4:25	Laying aside falsehood	Speak truth	We are all members of one another
Eph. 4:26-27	Don’t sin in your anger	It is OK to be angry	No foothold for the devil
Eph. 4:28	Stop stealing	Work	That you would have something to share with those in need
Eph. 4:29	No unwholesome talk	Let your words be helpful	That it may benefit (give grace)
Eph. 4:30	Do not grieve the Spirit		This is the motivation for all the commands
Eph. 4:31-32	Remove harsh traits	Take on gentle ones	As God in Christ has forgiven you
Eph. 5:1		Be imitators of God	As dearly loved children
Eph. 5:2		Live a life of love	As Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us

## LifeGroup Discussion:

- As you look at the list above, where is your old self dominating? What negative behaviors do you need to take off and what positive behaviors do you need to put on?
- Beyond just putting on the positive behaviors, Jesus asks us to take our devotion a step further by judging our motives. He goes after the Pharisees who observed the details of the Law and practiced righteous, though their hearts and motivation for practicing these behaviors was born out of selfish motives. Read this passage. **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” (Matthew 23:27-28)**  
Where are you practicing the right behaviors with the wrong motivation?
- “For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.” (Hebrews 6:10).** This Bible passage reminds us that even though others may not see or even forget our good work, God does not. Take a moment to surrender your need to be noticed and thanked by people, and ask to remind you of His love for you and His noticing of your effort. Who are the people in your life who you can encourage and remind that their good work has not gone unnoticed by you, or by the Lord? If appropriate, start with your mom.

## Next Steps:

- Attend the Wednesday night series, “Great Authors of the Faith”** on Wednesday nights in May from 7:00-8:30 pm in Samsvick Chapel. We will be studying the life and works of the great writers like A.W. Tozer, Brennan Manning and Tim Keller. Each night, a different Calvary Pastor will share how that night’s writer has impacted their lives. Come grow in your faith as we learn from these great authors together. Find out more at [calvarylife.org](http://calvarylife.org)
- Take a night out as a couple and attend “We Choose Love” Dessert + Date Night at the brand new Ritz Ballroom at the Yost Theatre in Santa Ana.** Join us on Tuesday, May 24, at 7pm as we partner with Tyrone and Elina Wells and our friends from Marriage365 for a night out to grow closer together in our relationships. Register online at [wechoose.love](http://wechoose.love)