

CELL NOTES 21/4/08

ICE BREAKER

If your house were on fire, what three items would you try to save?

THEME

Hands off, that's mine!

Reading ; Matthew 19 : 16 – 26

SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) When on the receiving end of theft, there is a sense of violation, as well as the loss incurred.
- 2) Modern opportunity of identity theft.
- 3) Theft is apt to happen when conscience is over-ridden by greed.
- 4) What stops a thief? Does the existence of the commandment do that?
- 5) The commandments are not just “don'ts” – they define the limits of our relationship with God, and what behaviour may break that. From this side of the cross they help us know how to live in freedom.
- 6) “Don't steal” was originally there to protect common property from individual greed, rather than protecting private property. It has the sense of “You shall share.”
- 7) The Bible has much about the rich preying on the poor – stealing in the Bible is often seen in social terms – the rich taking what they don't need, and thus depriving others of it.
- 8) Attitudes to foster
 - i) Hate greed.. “Money has a way of freezing people's hands, eyes, lips and hearts.” Where is my treasure?
 - ii) Be detached from possessions. Give. Giving in a small way imitates God.
 - iii) Share what I have.
 - iv) Trust God as provider.
- 9) 1Chron 29 : 11 - 12.

QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION

Read the passage. What does it say to you?

- 1) Have you ever been the victim of theft? How did it feel? Have you ever been involved in any way in stealing? How did that feel?

- 2) Jesus hit the man where it hurt – his pocket. What topic may he raise with you?
- 3) Why is Jesus so tough on riches?
- 4) When have you struggled with greed/ selfishness? When have you been most able to be generous?
- 5) What have you given up to follow Jesus?
- 6) Does this topic raise any specific challenge for you?