

Tuesday, August 2 - Read Matthew 20:1-16

1. Who in this story determines what each worker will earn for his work?
2. Why does the master get to decide these things? What gives him the right?
3. Do you think God approves of “ownership”? Why/why not?
4. If God didn’t approve of ownership, what would be the meaning of the commandment, “You shall not steal?”
5. How is ownership established? How is it determined who owns what?
6. Who owns the world? (See Psalm 24:1)
 - a. Why? (See Psalm 24:2)
7. How does this help us better understand how ownership is determined?
8. Who ultimately decides how much anyone will own? (Deuteronomy 8:5-20)
 - a. How does this serve to help us respect what belongs to others?
 - b. How does it help us wisely use what belongs to us?

KTFK: it was / each one / each secured / our trade. / Lord we / Ownership we / must respect / from the / while knowing / for what / has made,

Song: “How Firm a Foundation”

Prayer: “Lord, we thank you for the great joy it is to make things of value to others, that we might use our gifts to help provide for them as their gifts help provide for us. We thank you for the satisfaction or being able to supply the needs that we have for this life, and help us to always remember that though these things must come through hard work, you are the one who gives us our strength, our opportunities, and everything else we need in order for our work to prosper. Amen.”

Wednesday, August 3 - Read Deuteronomy 25:13-16

1. What does it mean that God’s people are to have full and fair weights and full and fair measures?
2. Who would use these things in their daily activities?
3. What would they use them for?
4. Why might they be tempted to use weights and measures that were not equal?
5. What might we know this as today?
6. What kinds of laws do we have that seek to make sure that weights and measures are full and fair?
7. What does this tell us about the kinds of economic exchanges that God is pleased with? Is it enough that one person in an economic exchange is pleased, or does God require both of them to be willingly engaging in the purchase?
8. Who is it that determines, then, what any item is worth?
9. To what degree is freedom for both parties necessary in order for these exchanges to be just?

- a. How would either force or fraud in these exchanges be essentially theft by one person or the other?

KTFK: both free, / and our / are our / our buying / be. / Only when / they must / economic actions / selling are / just as

Song: “Jesus Paid It All”

Prayer: “LORD God, help us to live justly with others regarding all of our economic and commercial activities that our economy might be as healthy and strong as possible, blessing all who take part in it. Give us also a proper understanding and appreciation for these things as also being part of your good gifts to us. Amen.”

Thursday, August 4 - Read James 4:13 - 5:6

1. For what specific things is James pronouncing judgment on “the rich” in this section?
2. What does it mean that their riches have rotted?
3. What might God’s intention have been for the wealth he allowed them to accumulate?
4. Why doesn’t God just instruct the civil government to simply take this wealth away from them?
5. While James is reprimanding them for not using their wealth (appropriately), how does he also indicate that their wealth is not all justly gained?
6. How do James’ words here align with what Jesus warns in Matt. 19:16-30?
7. How good do you feel about the way that you engage the economic aspects of your life?
 - a. How well are you using your health and gifts to provide for your needs and the needs of your family?
 - b. How honest are you in these dealings, making sure that you do not take advantage of anyone?
 - c. How much are you sharing with those who are truly in need?
 - d. How well are you supporting both the work of civil government and the ministry of the church?
 - e. Have you also stored up wealth that is rotting, or have you been prayerfully utilizing it in God glorifying ways?

KTFK: own what / will judge / us there. / it well / Though we / we must / we produce / we fail / all beware, / the Lord / to use / for if

Song: “We Are an Offering”

Prayer: “Help us, Lord, not to hoard wealth, but to use it for your glory and for the good of others. Help us not to deceive ourselves by claiming that we are simply being wise when we are really living and trusting in the things of this world. Amen.”

Friday, August 5 - Read Malachi 3:6-12

1. What does God say we do when we fail to bring the full tithe to him?
2. Does God need our money?
 - a. Why does he want us to bring him our offerings then?
 - b. Why is the quality of our offerings so important to him?
3. Though the formal tithing rule is no longer in place (See II Cor. 9:1-15), in what ways might we still be guilty of robbing God of our offerings?
4. How do our offerings reveal a heart of true trust and thankfulness toward God and help keep us from living for the things of the world?

KTFK: a thousand / will bring / leave any / to him / owns the / bills. /
Though he / hills, we / our gifts / and not / cattle on

Song: "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Prayer: "Help us to be rich in love toward you, O God, and help us to show it in our willing and grateful offerings. Amen."

Saturday, August 6

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

Aug 1 - For the / curse we / all must / bear a / portion of / the labors, / to provide / for our / own needs / and share / with needy / neighbors.
Aug 2 - Ownership we / must respect / for what / each one / has made, / while knowing / it was / from the Lord we / each secured / our trade.
Aug 3 - Only when / our buying / and our / selling are / both free, / are our / economic actions / just as / they must / be.
Aug 4 - Though we / own what / we produce / we must / all beware, / for if / we fail / to use / it well / the Lord will judge / us there.
Aug 5 - Though he / owns the / cattle on / a thousand / hills, we / will bring / our gifts / to him / and not / leave any / bills.

Family Worship 2022

August 1 - 6

Deuteronomy 5:19

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily
KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

This week, we move on to consider God's will for mankind in the 8th commandment, "You shall not steal." As we do so, let us ask God to help us fully understand what this means for us and how our living within it helps to advance human flourishing.

Monday, August 1 - Read Genesis 3:17-19

1. How did God's cursing of the ground change life for mankind?
2. Was this responsibility to be borne by every human being or just some of them?
3. What are you essentially doing when you steal what others have labored for?
4. What does it tell other people, then, when you have earned money?
5. What principle does God give us regarding this responsibility? (See II Thess. 3:6-12)
 - a. Why is it important for us to recognize that Paul says, "if anyone is **not willing** to work..." rather than, "If anyone is **not able** to work..."?
6. What is to be the case with those who cannot work?
 - a. Where is their provision to come from? (See Ephesians 4:28)
 - b. What is this called?
7. Why do you think God prescribes that the poor are to be taken care of through the willing charity of others rather than through the force of law?
 - a. How might this build bonds between people rather than divide them?
 - b. How might this provide a kind of accountability that wouldn't exist if the poor were given provision through force?

KTFK: with needy / all must / for our / For the / the labors, / portion of / to provide / neighbors. / curse we / and share / own needs / bear a

Song: "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Prayer: "LORD God, help us to truly take responsibility for ourselves to the extent that we are able, not only to provide for our needs, but also to have something to share with those who are in true need. Help us to walk this balance well, never turning a deaf ear to the needs of the needy, but also never enabling those who can work but do not want to by providing what they can, and should, do for themselves. Amen."