

PRIZING AND PROTECTING PRIVATE PROPERTY
Exodus 21:33-22:15 // September 14, 2025 AM

As God's redeemed people, we must prize and protect the property of others.

I. Just payment is to be made for *unintentionally* taking private property (21:33-36; 22:5-6, 10-15).

II. Just payment is to be made for *intentionally* taking private property (22:1-4, 7-9).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Why did Karl Marx want to get rid of private property?
2. Why is the right to private property good? Which of the Ten Commandments sets forth this human right?
3. What is negligence, and how could it lead to someone's property being damaged or lost? How does God distinguish that from property lost by accident?
4. Why does God require double payment for stealing? How is that justice?
5. What would happen to a thief that could not pay back what he owed?
6. What did Jesus do for us since we couldn't pay back what we owe to God for our sin?
7. What did Zacchaeus do when he came to saving faith in Jesus? How does our faith in Jesus change the way we view people and their property?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. How might I use this text or the eighth commandment to help someone see the evils of communism and the goodness of property rights?
2. What is the relationship between valuing human people and valuing human property? How does the structure of the book of the law help me to understand this relationship?
3. Is my heart being progressively transformed through Christ so that I am growing more and more to prize and protect human property?