



The Truth

Aletheia Group weekly newsletter

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“You shall not steal.” (Exodus 20:15)

“It may just be me, but God’s Sixth Commandment doesn’t require any exegesis, no commentary, or theologian to explain its meaning. And if you advocate pirating a movie, that is someone else’s property, because ‘We gotta save America donchya know?’ then you are simply breaking God’s commandment against stealing.” –Dave



although he would normally agree with the objectors, he was making an exception for the bootlegging of Dinesh D’Souza’s movie “2016: Obama’s America.” He said because America was at stake that it was okay to steal another man’s property and put it on Facebook and YouTube. If that wasn’t enough, he then said if you could not understand this, then you were an Obama sympathizer and you should “unfriend” him.

If you need to have the error in his thinking explained, then you might actually need a refund from me. We long ago decided as a nation we could ignore God’s 6th Commandment, “You shall not murder” by not only sanctioning baby murder in cases of rape, incest, or a doctor’s diagnosis, but that we taxpayers should pay for it.

Now this well-meaning citizen is saying we can ignore God’s 8th Commandment, “You shall not steal,” because America is at stake.

He no doubt probably expects God to continue to bless America too.

You see, God will understand us breaking His Commandments because we gotta save America.

Let me help some of you out with this. If you think seeing this movie is so important that you can justify stealing another man’s property, then I suggest you adjust your budget and go buy the ticket. If you can afford a ticket for yourself and for others, and think it is okay to steal another man’s property, then might I suggest that you buy tickets for those who cannot afford to so, thereby not enticing others to break God’s Commandments?

What was really bothersome about this post is that it was done on the Lord’s Day. To see a post justifying theft just because we have to save America goes beyond the pale. The whole premise of our Republic is that we would be a nation of laws.

Turn the page for more on that.

FROM THE FOUNDERS



I cannot imagine, although I am fully aware of its possibility, of descending any lower as a nation than when people who self-described themselves as patriots, God-fearing American Christians advocate stealing another man's property if it means saving America. When this becomes the public norm our republic is lost.

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."
John Adams, *Second President of the United States*

John Adams understood the importance of the United States of America being a nation of laws. Mr. Adams further believed that a nation looking for utopia would do well to fashion itself after the morals and principles found in the Holy Bible. He wrote in his diary in 1756:

"Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God... What a Eutopia, what a Paradise would this region be."

Our nation has long since lost its morality and virtue. For too long, both major parties believe they have the power to confiscate the property of some of their constituents and pass that property on to others. And hiding behind legislative powers does not lessen the theft. Writing in his 1850 masterpiece *The Law*, Federic Bastiat explains:

"But how is legal plunder to be identified? Quite simply. See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime...You would not use the law to oppose socialism? But it is upon the law that socialism itself relies. Socialists desire to practice legal plunder, not illegal plunder."

This is and has been the state of American government for far too long. God help us!

FROM THE PULPIT

“These three commandments of God really kind of tie together. Where God said, thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not commit adultery and thou shalt not steal - really what you have here is God safeguarding of issues that are vital to life. The sixth commandment safeguards life because God says thou shalt not kill. The seventh commandment safeguards marriage and the family because God said thou shalt not commit adultery. This commandment safeguards property for God said thou shalt not steal. These commandments right here just give us the basic building blocks of a moral society.” Dr. Jerry Vines, former Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL.

Dr. Vines’ description of the 6th, 7th, and 8th Commandments being “safeguards of issues that are vital to life” would have been well received by our Founding Fathers. Why? Because as Dr. Vines says, these commandments “give us the basic building blocks of a moral society.”

The third specific unalienable right described by Thomas Jefferson in our Declaration of Independence is the pursuit of happiness. God designed man to work. When He put Adam in the Garden of Eden, He did so with the intention of man to work:

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” (Genesis 2:15)

Our pursuit of happiness is grounded in the principle of work. The fruits of our labor are shelter, food, wealth, and good health. These are the results of liberty, not the reasons for them. We are not free because we work and accumulate wealth; we work and accumulate wealth because we are free. This is why Jefferson listed life and liberty *before* the pursuit of happiness. A man who is dead or imprisoned cannot work for the accumulation of his own wealth.

This is why to postulate that in this just one instance it would be okay to pirate Dinesh D’Souza’s movie is at best socialism and at worse unvarnished theft.

Part of our pursuit of happiness is consuming goods, of which a movie is part. Another part of our pursuit of happiness is being charitable, of which buying a movie ticket for another is also a part. Stealing is always stealing and is never justified.

TO THE STREETS

WE the People have lost our way. You've no doubt seen the movie making the rounds this past week where a woman in Cleveland, Ohio says she is going to vote for Barack Obama because he gives out free phones. If you haven't seen it yet, please take a moment to watch it [here](#).

This woman is a great argument for what someone has recently well-said that we have become a nation of "representation without taxation." In other words, we have completely flipped from who we were at our founding where one of our grievances against King George III was that we were being taxed without representation. Now we have people being represented AND given the right to vote without having to pay any taxes. In other words, to use Barack Obama's words, we have people without skin in the game. So what do we do about it?

1. Use this newsletter and the video above as a teachable moment for your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews. You can have a little fun laughing at the silly (and pathetic) woman, but be sure to explain why voting for a candidate because he or she is going to give you something free is un-American and unbiblical.
2. Share with your friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors the premise postulated of stealing another man's property and justifying it because our nation is at stake. Ask their opinion of the premise and if they are in agreement with it, help educate them using this newsletter and the Bible.
3. Let us all search within our own hearts to see if we would plunder another man's wealth for the furtherance of our own benefit. This can be wrapped in many forms, so diligently seek the Lord's insight on this subject. If social plunder is ever going to stop, it needs to begin with you and me.

We are simply talking about returning to living under God's Ten Commandments given to the Israelites to teach them how to live as a nation. America would do well to heed this divine instruction.

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