

## BIBLICAL FINANCES: MAKING RESTITUTION

13 September 2013

**MAKING RESTITUTION:** To make right past wrongs to the fullest extent possible.

**Exodus 22:1** If you have stolen something, you will restore it with interest. There is no valid reason for stealing. Stealing is always wrong.

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**Exodus 22:2-4** If a robber breaks into your house and gets killed, justice is served. If he survives, he is to return your stuff plus an equal amount; “he shall restore double.” If he can’t pay you back then he’ll have to work it off “he shall be sold for his theft.”

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**Exodus 22:5** You are responsible for the things that belong to you. You shall restore anything that was damaged or “eaten” by someone or something that belongs to you. An apology is good, but it’s not good enough.

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**Exodus 22:6** If your actions cause damage to your neighbor’s property, whether by accident, by carelessness, or by things that are out of your control (like the wind), you are still responsible to make full restitution for that damage.

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**Exodus 22:7** If you’re keeping valuables for your neighbor and you are robbed, if the thief is caught, he’ll have to pay back double (100% interest). That would discourage thievery.

Putting a thief in jail where he gets free housing and food may actually be desirable to him so that it would encourage him to steal again and again.

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**Exodus 22:8** If the thief isn’t found that stole your neighbor’s stuff, then you will be examined to make sure you didn’t take part in the theft. If a theft occurred, most likely your stuff was also stolen.

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**Exodus 22:9-12** For any trespass (theft) against your neighbor, you will pay back double. The exception here is if his beast dies or is injured while in your care and you didn’t cause it.

In 2 Kings 6:5, a man was concerned about losing a borrowed axe head. He knew he would have to make restitution. Think twice about borrowing your neighbor’s stuff, it will probably break while you’re using it.

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**Exodus 22:13**

If another's property is destroyed, prove that you didn't simply steal it. That's what David did whenever a lion or a bear killed the sheep under his care (1 Samuel 17:34-35). He did this to protect his good name (Proverbs 22:1).

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**2 Corinthians 5:17**

"Old things are passed away" doesn't mean you can forget about your debts. God has pardoned your sin and the eternal consequences of your sin. The temporal responsibilities to others has not disappeared. The consequences of your sins still remains. Pay your debts to others or it will hinder your Christian witness.

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**Proverbs 6:30**

We need to differentiate between a true thief and someone trying to survive.

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**Proverbs 6:31**

A thief shall restore what he stole times seven; even if it means selling all the stuff in his house. That law would discourage thievery.

If you stole something and you think you got away with it; you didn't. You are reaping what you sowed. Pay it back (with interest) so you can enjoy God's blessings and begin to reap the benefits of doing right.

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**Luke 19:1-10**

Zacchaeus' response to receiving Jesus Christ made it clear to others that a great change had taken place in his life and in his character. He made restitution and changed public opinion concerning his reputation. Jesus vouched for the sincerity of his profession (vs. 9-10).

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**1 Timothy 2:1-4**

Perform your duties with "**all godliness and honesty.**" Provide your employer with a full day's WORK (stop leaving early). When you're at work, make sure you are working (put your smart phone, iPad, or tablet AWAY!). Keep your breaks to a minimum. Don't steal products and supplies from your company.

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**Titus 2:9-10**

Do your work with "**all fidelity**" (faithfulness, dependability, reliability, trustworthiness).

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