

The Real Cost of ‘Little’ Sins

Decoding the Torah: Season 3

Core Message: This teaching explores the deeper spiritual implications of three commandments: “You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; and “You shall not covet.” Rabbi Schneider emphasizes that these are not just legal instructions but moral imperatives that reflect the condition of our hearts. Through practical examples, he challenges believers to examine subtle sins—misusing time, telling half-truths, or harboring envy—actions that we often excuse. True righteousness involves choosing truth over compromise, guarding our hearts from jealousy, and finding contentment in God's love and purpose for us.

Main Bible Verses (NASB):

Core Memory Verse: (Exodus 20:15) “You shall not steal.”

- **(Exodus 20:16)** “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”
- **(Exodus 20:17)** “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”
- **(Deuteronomy 19:18–19)** “If the witness is a false witness and he has accused his brother falsely, then you shall do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from among you.”
- **(Philippians 4:11–12)** “Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity...”

Key Points (Fill-in-the-Blank):

- "Stealing is not just an offense against the one we steal from. It's an offense against the _____ who created us."
- There are all types of ways that employees can _____ from their employers. (Extended lunch breaks might be one example.)
- "We need to guard our hearts because coveting is something that takes place _____."

- "We need to be aware of our true motives when impulses come up from within our hearts, that they are not coming from the _____ place."
- "Beloved, let's not bear false witness because when we do, we not only release a curse on the person... but we also bring a curse upon _____."
- "A rich person... is somebody that's _____ with what they already have."
- "You are a _____ in Jesus. Truly, beloved one, you're a _____ in Messiah." (From the Hebrew Moments insert)

Notes:

(Use lines below for personal notes)

Reflection Questions:

1. In what subtle ways might you be justifying dishonest behavior, and how does this align with God's standard for truth and integrity?

2. Are there any areas in your heart where jealousy or envy motivates your thoughts or speech about others?

3. How can learning to be content in all circumstances transform your relationship with God and others?

4. What steps can you take to better guard your heart and mouth from speaking partial truths or slanted narratives?

5. Before you share a slanted story, ask what if the object of this story was me? Would this check help you not to be guilty of giving false witness?

Application Challenge of the Week:

Each day this week, thank God for three specific things you already have—and reject every thought of comparison or envy. (Or come up with your own as the Lord leads):

Prayer Prompts:

- Ask God to reveal any area in your life where you've compromised truth or integrity.
- Thank God for His provision and ask Him to help you be content in every season.
- Pray for strength to speak life and truth, even when it's difficult.

Resources	Where to find it
Decoding the Torah: Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World by Rabbi K.A. Schneider	https://discoveringthejewishjesus.com/decoding-the-torah/

“The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord cause His face to shine on you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His face to you, and give you peace.” Numbers 6:22-27 (NASB 95’)