

**CONSCIENCE #9/ TAKING WHAT DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU**

*You shall not steal.*

**CREEP OF THIEFS:** *in what ways was he self-centered?*

What pictures do you see in your mind as you hear this story? Do you think this Lazarus guy was famous? Why did she use her hair? What smells can you see? Sounds can you hear? Faces can you see?

*“Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. Mary then took a pound of very costly and pure perfumed ointment, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

*But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?” Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.*

*Therefore Jesus said, “Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.” - John 12:1-8*

What did the money box have to do with anything?

Sharing is the opposite of stealing. Can you see it? How can sharing help us to not take what does not belong to us?

*“He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.” - Ephesians 4:28*

**Youngers**

How do we know if something belongs to us or not?

What are your most favorite things that are yours?

Has anyone ever taken away anything that is important to you?

Do you ever want something that someone else has? Allot? What was it?

*What do we do* when we want really badly to take something that belongs to someone else?

How can Jesus help us with this kind of temptation?

**Olders**

What is this author asking for here in this proverb? Why is he asking for it?

What is our vulnerability in having too much? Too little? What does it mean to profane God's Name?

*“Two things I asked of You, do not refuse me before I die:  
Keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that is my portion,*

*That I not be full and deny You and say, “Who is the LORD?”*

*Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God.” - Proverbs 30:7-9*

Take what belongs to others and you open the door to being captive. Resist and keep your conscience free.