

Unknown Bible Stories Part 1 - Robbing God

Collecting our thoughts:

- 1) What would be your plan for “The perfect heist”?
 - old Western?
 - Ocean’s 11 (or 12 or 13)?
 - James Bondesque?
- 2) What could possibly go wrong?
- 3) Why do some people think they can “get away with it”?

I) Some Bible Stories you may not be familiar with (not in Sunday readings)

A) Achan and the Battle of Jericho (Joshua 7)

- 1) What was Achan’s sin?
- 2) What were the “things” that he stole?
- 3) So which commandment(s) is he guilty of violating?
- 4) Doesn’t God know who took the stuff?
- 5) How is Joshua to determine what God already knows?
- 6) Why not just tell Joshua where the stolen goods are?
- 7) What is / are the penalty(ies) for this sin? Why so harsh?

B) Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)

- 1) What was the sin of Ananias?
- 2) Which commandment(s) did he break?
- 3) How would Peter know much the property sold for?
- 4) What happened when Ananias was “outed”?
- 5) Was this God striking him down?
- 6) What happened three hours later?
- 7) Can sin be “collosional”?

C) Demas, Paul’s personal Judas (Philemon 1:24, Col. 4:14, II Tim. 4:10)

- 1) How is Demas described in Philemon?
- 2) How is he described in Colossians?
- 3) How is he described in II Timothy?

- 4) What happened between Colossae and II Timothy?
 - 5) Is this worthy of such condemnation?
 - 6) So what would be his sin? Which commandment?
 - 7) This person should not be confused with St. Demas (Dismas)
In Catholic mythology Dismas is the penitent thief on the cross with Jesus
- D) The More things change, the more they stay the same.
- 1) How do many go about “committing the oldest sins in the newest ways”?
 - 2) Can you think of any “breaking faith for money” modern news stories?
 - 3) What are some of the things money symbolizes in our society?
- E) Now you’re getting personal!
- 1) When has money been an especially strong temptation?
 - 2) What are some ways we can resist the pull of “filthy lucre”?
- 3) Since Christ paid the price for all sin, does God still punish sin?

Closing Prayer: Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises in Christ Jesus. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may forsake all covetous desires and the inordinate love of riches. Deliver us from the pursuit of passing things that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His righteousness and so find blessedness and peace in and through Him; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.
(Collect Against love of money LSB p.311)

No Zoom study Thanksgiving Eve, will rezoom THURSDAY, Dec. 5 at 7PM