



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

WHERE THIEVES BREAK THROUGH AND STEAL!

Matthew 6:19

*Lay not up for yourselves
treasures upon earth,
where moth and rust doth
corrupt, and where thieves
break through and steal*

Matthew 6:20

*But lay up for yourselves
treasures in heaven, where
neither moth nor rust doth
corrupt, and where thieves
do not break through nor
steal:*

Luke 12:33

*Sell that ye have, and give
alms; provide yourselves
bags which wax not old, a
treasure in the heavens that
faileth not, where no thief
approacheth, neither moth
corrupteth.*

Warm Greetings in Jesus,

I remember this slight scratching sound at the window. Like a tiny scraping. Scrape, scrape, scrape! We were on the ground floor, it

was already dawning there in Popayan, Colombia.



I was awake, but my wife was still fast asleep, as she was midterm pregnant at the time. As I watched in the direction the sound was emerging from, I realised, as our curtains were almost transparent in that little 'Pension' where we were staying, that there was someone outside the window with a long stick with a large hook attached to it! Inside our window was a row of socks and underwear drying through the night on a string we had put up there for the same, with the small horizontal window, open of course.

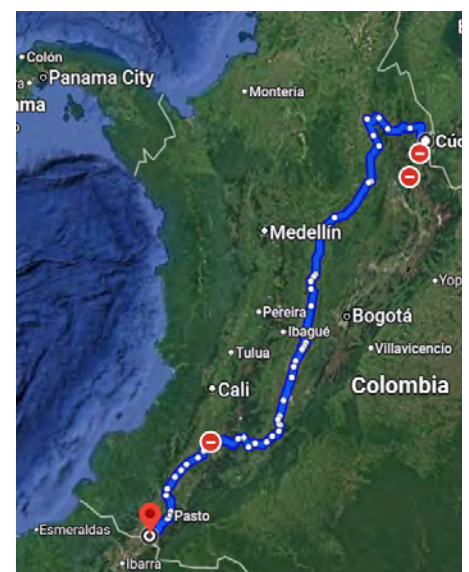
The person outside was trying to discreetly appropriate** the socks for himself!

I watched for a while, perhaps seconds and then shouted out a loud 'Oi!' and came over to

the window. The stick and hook disappeared, one sock had also been hijacked in the process. The rest of my family seemed to survive the noise, except for a small stir and a half-asleep mumble.

I had to laugh later as I thought, 'well, are some people that poor in Colombia (1981), that their occupation is to hook small items of clothing and underwear out of other people's rooms?'

I found many Colombians very helpful and precious, and in fact I remember a few of them as great jewels for the Lord. That year our family made our way across



Colombia from Cúcuta to Ipiales and from thence into Ecuador, where we lived a longer time and our last daughter was born.

I was robbed once before and once after that Colombian event. Both times in the open air. Fortunately, nothing of great physical value was lost, the Lord being merciful to me.

So Jesus had dealings in the Bible with thieves and I hope to share more verses later down.



I now realise I have been a **thief** for many years. I know quite a lot of other thieves also in the Christian world. I know I have stolen people's time, their money when I didn't use it wisely or in greater prayer for God's Kingdom, while it was under my stewardship. I am still guilty of this, but I hope to a far lesser degree and as I age, I realise that both stealing and thieves are all around us and are in fact ubiquitous to humanity as a result of the fall. We are all thieves of some form. Thieves break through and steal.

We mostly hear about small time thieves and even in scripture that is what we find, but there are even bigger thieves. **Satan himself is the greatest thief, and he is seeking to literally steal your soul**, and the truly wicked who run the earth today are still enslaving the souls and bodies of men, women and children.

These people are harder to find and pinpoint who they are, although some progress is being

made.

Thieves always break through and steal.

Lay up for yourselves TREASURES IN HEAVEN!

In the title scriptures to this edition, we are also admonished by Jesus to 'lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,' God willing we are going to get to this even more important phrase in one of the next few editions of the WCF! The best way to avoid thieves is to have little to be stolen! In Heaven there are no thieves or robbers and no way for them to break through and do anything! By God's grace we will go into that more deeply shortly.

Let us go through just a few really fascinating verses about both 'thieves' and the words, 'steal' or 'stolen'!

VERSES ON THIEVES

Deuteronomy 24:7

If a man be found stealing any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and maketh merchandise of him, or selleth him; then that **thief** shall die; and thou shalt put evil away from among you.

Job 24:14

The murderer rising with the light killeth the poor and needy, and in the night is as a **thief**. (The **thief** is compared on the same level as a murderer).

Proverbs 6:30

Men do not despise a **thief**, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

Proverbs 29:24

Whoso is partner with a **thief** hateth his own soul: he heareth

cursing, and bewrayeth it not. (Thieves are noted for their cursing. The ungodly poor curse, and it becomes their garment)

Jeremiah 2:26

As the **thief** is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets.

Joel 2:9

They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a **thief**. (Enter in = break through and steal.)

Matthew 24:43

But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the **thief** would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered (allowed) his house to be broken up. (Today we have security systems and remote cameras, and even night and day watchmen and patrols over our physical property.)

Matthew 26:55

In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a **thief** with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. (The Pharisees were actually the thieves here in the night!)

Luke 23:38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 And one of the malefactors (thieves) which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

40 But the other (**thief**) answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:38

And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. **(Jesus died between two thieves! Think of that. One of them on the point of death repented, and found God's Mercy).**

Luke 19: 5

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.

6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, that he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. (Zacchaeus repented of his stealing)

9 And Jesus said unto him, this day is salvation come to this

house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 10:1

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a **thief** and a robber. (Thieves even try to get to heaven by some other route and break through there!)

John 10:10

The **thief** cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (Jesus said here that thieves are absolutely connected to violence)

John 12:6

This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a **thief**, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. (Judas Iscariot was a **thief** and also a betrayer)

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a **thief** in the night. (The Good **Thief** is coming back!)

1 Thessalonians 5:4

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a **thief**.

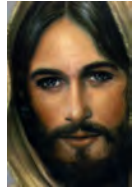
1 Peter 4:15

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a **thief**, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come as a **thief** in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

(The Lord will prove Himself the greatest Thief of all time! Only He will take back what belonged to Him!)



Great Good Thief!

Revelation 3:3

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a **thief**, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. (Watch out for the Great Good **Thief**, Jesus Christ!)

Revelation 16:15

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

What tremendous verses about thieves!

Thieves are everywhere. You certainly have them in your town



and village. They are increasing. We all do some thieving and stealing at some level, as it is part of sin. But here we are talking about 'deliberate thieves'. They come disguised in so many forms, and disguises. They could be a

pretty young woman, even a child, a smooth talking man or just your regular common person who actually does not look like what you imagine to be a **thief**. **The thief is coming for your stuff, and they will find it in many cases.**

Verse on stole stealing things, stealing people, stealing countries, stealing children, stealing anything that moves or doesn't move!

Genesis 31:19

And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.

Genesis 31:39

That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night.

Genesis 40:15

For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon. (We can scripturally say that Joseph was a victim of child trafficking.)

Exodus 22:7

If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the **thief** be found, let him pay double.

Exodus 22:12

And if it be stolen from him, he shall make restitution unto the owner thereof.

2 Samuel 15:6

And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

(Ungodly rulers and politicians are trained, or learn, the dark arts



of stealing people's minds and hearts, just like Absalom here!)

2 Kings 11:2

But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. (Here we find stealing for a good cause!)

Proverbs 9:17

Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. (Many thieves would agree with this Bible verse)

Matthew 28:13

Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. (The Pharisees' advice to the Romans after Jesus' body disappeared!)

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. (Get out and work for your money. God will bless it)

God bless you.

I pray this edition was a blessing.

Get ready in the next edition to 'Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven!'

Love Jerry and the WCF Team

The difference between theft and robbery is that theft is merely stealing someone's property, whereas robbery is using force or fear to take property from a person's immediate possession. So theft is a less serious property crime. Robbery is a more serious violent crime.



[There is a Fountain | Reawaken Hymns | Official Lyric Video](#)

[There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood with lyrics about the dying thief.](#)

[Nikolai Khamara, Russia, Thief | 365 Christian Men not for the faint hearted.](#)

[Bank Robber Turns Life Around, Puts His Faith in God beautiful story. God is able.](#)

[Christian shop manager dissuades would-be armed robber - BBC News](#)

The Highwayman

(Famous English Preacher) John Wesley was once stopped by a highwayman, who demanded his money or his life. Mr Wesley, after giving him the money, said, "Let me speak one word to you. The time may come when you will regret the course of life in which you are now engaged. Remember this, 'The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin'." No more was said, and they parted.

Many years after, as Mr Wesley

was leaving a church in which he had been preaching, a stranger introduced himself, and asked Mr Wesley if he remembered being waylaid at such and such a time. He said he recollected it. "I was

that man," said the stranger, "and that single verse you quoted on that occasion was the means of a total change in my soul and habits. I have long since been attending the house of God and of

giving attention to his word, and trust that I am a Christian."



THE THIEF COMETH NOT, BUT FOR TO STEAL, AND TO KILL, AND TO DESTROY: I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY. JOHN 10:10

JESUS ANSWERED: WATCH OUT THAT NO ONE DECEIVES YOU. FOR MANY WILL COME IN MY NAME, CLAIMING, I AM THE MESSIAH, AND WILL DECEIVE MANY. MATTHEW 24:4

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