

Large Catechism Lesson 12
Part 1: The Seventh Commandment

Opening Discussion:

- When is Luther writing the Large Catechism?
 - This is one of the commandments that especially sounds like he is writing today.

- What was the economic system/societal structure in Luther's day?
 - Etymology of 'economy'

- What is covered in the seventh commandment?

¶222-225

-What is your reaction to the statement: 'God also wants property protected'?

-Who is a thief?

¶226-229

-Who are worse than burglars? Why?

-Who cheats us most of all?

-The largest union on earth

-'Swivel chair robbers'

-Luther has once again broadened a commandment that we would prefer to keep limited in scope. What is he revealing about our sinful nature in view of God's Commandments?

¶230

-What is Luther's critique of the Holy Chair at Rome?

-What makes the pope a thief?

¶231-239

-What is the commandment saying we must do and not do?

¶240-246

-How does the natural law play into keeping the seventh commandment?

-Law of retribution

-‘You’re a criminal now.’ | ‘You are in the game.’

-How is God involved?

-Can God really use thieves to punish thieves?

¶ 247

-What is your reaction to Luther’s discussion of a poor man’s prayer?

¶248-249

-Impressed upon the young

-The role of the catechism and its unceasing formation upon the Christian

-What is the purpose of governments and princes in relation to greediness?

¶250-253

-Lending & usury

-How are we regard these practices faithfully?

-What kind of lending might Luther have in mind here?

Closing Discussion:

- Which political party would Luther align with?

- Which economic system is biblical?

 - What are better questions to ask instead?