



Spiritual  
Maturity:  
**Do Not  
Steal**

“Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.”

Ephesians 4:28

# Newstart recipients have been urged to go regional in order to find jobs — but could that work?

By [Tom Lowrey](#)

Updated about 6 hours ago



**██████████ lies to Centrelink about his income, and steals food through the self-serve checkout machines at the supermarket.**



PHOTO: Connor Drum lost his job as a librarian and is currently on Newstart. (ABC News: Tamara Penniket)

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Ocean's Eleven (2001)



“If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the Lord by deceiving a neighbour about something entrusted to them or left in their care or about something stolen, or if they cheat their neighbour, or if they find lost property and lie about it, or if they swear falsely about any such sin that people may commit – when they sin in any of these ways and realise their guilt, they must return what they have stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to them, or the lost property they found, or whatever it was they swore falsely about. They must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner on the day they present their guilt offering.

Leviticus 6:2–5

## What is Stealing?

- Deceiving a neighbour about something entrusted to them
- Find lost property and lie about it
- Cheating a neighbour

“Do not defraud or rob your neighbour. Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.

Leviticus 19:13

- Promises

“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – your whole nation – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

Malachi 3:8–10

- Stealing from God

“give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s,  
and to God what is God’s”

- Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

James 4:1–2

“If you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such ‘wisdom’ does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:14–16

## Bitterness and Envy

- Deserve
- Disorder, fighting
- Distrust

“Someone in the crowd said to him,  
‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the  
inheritance with me.’

Jesus replied, ‘Man, who appointed me a  
judge or an arbiter between you?’ Then he  
said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard  
against all kinds of greed; life does not  
consist in an abundance of possessions.’

Luke 12:13–15

## Greed

- More
- Not rightly ours
- Retirement?
  - Rich towards God
  - Gratefulness, generosity

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

1 Timothy 6:6–9

## Mistrust

- of God
- Discontentment
  - Don't have

“Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Ephesians 4:28

“For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’

We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

2 Thessalonians 3:7–12

- Busy, productive
  - Producer
  - “I deserve” / “I can share”
- Share with others
- *exo-blessers*

“Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.’

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.’

## Zacchaeus

- 4- or 5-fold (Exodus 22:1)
- +20% (Numbers 5:7)

