

When do robbers become terrorists? (28:24)

He who robs his father or his mother and says, "It is not a transgression," is the companion of a man who destroys.

THE TEXT (NASB)

He who robs his father or his mother and says, "It is not a transgression," is the companion of a man who destroys.

Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, it is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer. KJV - Proverbs 28:24

INTRODUCTION



Surprisingly, it starts at home. When robbers steal from their own parents they are not just thieves, but act like terrorists. Parents should be honoured, not abused. Parents are "semi-sacred."

Robbing either parent is a violation of the fifth commandment, "Honour your **father** and your **mother**." To steal from those who gave us life and nurtured us when we were helpless is much more serious than stealing from anyone else. Parents give to children as they wish, but children do not have the right to take as they wish.

Governments can learn much from this text and design appropriate tax benefits to reduce social breakdown.



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COMMENTARY



A child who steals from a parent will easily steal from a sibling. The debt of gratitude and honour is greater toward a parent than toward a sibling. As parents get older and more vulnerable, it is absolutely essential that their children are supportive, rather than abusive.

Translation

The Hebrew word for a man who **destroys**, **תחש** (šḥ?ḥ?ḥ?ḥ?, pronounced “shah-kh?th”), is first used in Genesis 6:11 where the word “corrupt” is used to describe the earth just before Noah’s flood. This connotes a more serious evil than mere thievery and implies that violence and injury may soon follow. The modern term for a man who destroys is a saboteur—a terrorist. Of course there are other types of terrorists that seek to destroy, perhaps even with their parents’ blessing, but the text states that financial parent abuse is one type of terrorism.

Birds of a Feather Flock Together



The expression “**is a companion of**” avoids the direct accusation of calling such a child a destroyer. By close association with someone, we implicitly approve of their lifestyle and values. We pickup of their mannerisms. We learn their habits. We become like them.

Parental Support Tax Incentive

If robbing parents is wrong, then giving to them is right! Rather than taking from parents’ finances, add to them. A nation would be served well by a tax incentive which allows children to



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deduct from their income amounts used to support elderly parents. This could significantly reduce the state costs of elder-care. Such a tax incentive would draw God's blessing upon the nation since it would line up with God's word and strengthen families.

Classic Comments

To quote the commentator, Gill:

Sins against parents are greater than against others...more aggravated, especially when parents are aged, and cannot work for themselves, but depend on what they have for their livelihood; whereas a young man can, and ought, and should rather give to his parents than rob them of what they have.

Matthew Henry also notes that children may rob their parents indirectly by wasting what they have been given or by incurring debt and leaving their parents to pay it.

OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND



Jesus emphasized children's responsibility to care for elderly parents.

He placed extremely high importance on financial assistance to parents—to the extent that giving to parents is really a form of giving to God.

Jesus taught that charity begins at home and especially toward parents (Matthew 15:4-6).

APPLICATION

- Memorize the text in your favourite Bible translation and think about it often.
- Be more than fair in helping your aging parents—even if it costs you money.
- Do not take advantage of your parents' kindness.
- Think of one or two ways of helping your parents or your spouse's parents.

Which of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take now? Ask Him.



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KEY WORDS

companionship, destruction, estate, family, more assets (quantity), respect, reverence, thief, taxes, transgression

ILLUSTRATION

Who is Self-Centered Sam?



Self-Centered Sam looks out for number one. Who's that? It's Sam, of course! Sam doesn't consider himself to be self-centered. One of his favourite books is ["The Richest Man in Babylon."](#)

What does Sam do with his income? The cream, the very best goes to his own long-term growth fund. His motto is 'pay yourself first.' Some call him Stingy Sam. But he's not stingy; he's just making careful preparation for his own future, comfort, and well-being. He is part of the "me" generation. He typifies the Maslow's hierarchy of needs with self-actualization as apex of all values. Sam is a dedicated humanist. He doesn't recognize any higher power than himself. He's a tough negotiator.

Sam doesn't ignore charity. But how could he possibly help anyone one else unless there was something in it for him? Therefore any and all charitable donations must have full and public credit given to the donor. The more people are aware of his generosity the better. After all, a little bit of advertising is good for business. When his corporation gives a gift it comes as a percentage of profits, not revenues.

His financial hero is the multi-millionaire, whose assets once exceeded the entire US treasury:



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The great Railroad and Steamship Baron [Cornelius Vanderbilt](#).

