

# Proverbs 6:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

## Analysis

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If caught, the thief must restore sevenfold and give all his house's substance. Though theft for hunger evokes sympathy, consequences remain - multiple restitution required. The Hebrew 'shalam' (restore/repay) and 'sheba' (seven/sevenfold) indicate comprehensive repayment. Even sympathetic sin requires restitution. This sets up v.32's point: adultery's consequences are far worse than even theft's severe penalties.

## Historical Context

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Exodus 22:1-4 prescribed restitution for theft - typically double, sometimes quadruple or quintuple depending on circumstances. 'Sevenfold' here may be hyperbolic emphasizing total restitution - everything the thief owns goes to repayment. The principle: sin has costly consequences even when circumstances are mitigating. Forgiveness doesn't eliminate all consequences.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What restitution might God require for sins He's forgiven?
2. How does understanding that forgiven sin still carries consequences affect your repentance?
3. To whom do you owe restitution that you've avoided making?

## Interlinear Text

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וְנִמְצָא	וְשָׁלַם	שִׁבְעָתָּהּ	אֶת	כָּל	הָוֶן
But if he be found	he shall restore	sevenfold	H853	H3605	all the substance
H4672	H7999	H7659			H1952
בֵּיתוֹ	יִתֵּן:				
of his house	he shall give				
H1004	H5414				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 20:18** (Parallel theme): That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice therein.

**Luke 19:8** (Parallel theme): 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 any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

**2 Samuel 12:6** (Parallel theme): And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

**Matthew 18:25** (Parallel theme): But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.