

Important Biblical and *De Officiis* Passages on Exchange

Deut. 25:13,14: "Thou shalt not have divers weights in thy bag, a greater and a less: neither shall there be in thy house a greater bushel and a less," and further on (Dt. 25:16): "For the Lord . . . abhorreth him that doth these things, and He hateth all injustice."

Prov. 20:14, "It's no good, it's no good!" says the buyer— then goes off and boasts about the purchase.

Matt. 7:12: So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Matt. 21:12: Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

In the *Summa* Aquinas interprets this as: "He that buys a thing in order that he may sell it, entire and unchanged, at a profit, is the trader who is cast out of God's temple."

2 Tim. 2:4: No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Aquinas applies this to trading by clerics: "No man being a soldier to God entangleth himself with secular businesses."

De Offic. iii, 15: "Contracts should be entirely free from double-dealing: the seller must not impose upon the bidder, nor the buyer upon one that bids against him."