

Basics of Restitution

When the one wronged could not be found, his relatives needed to be paid, and if the relatives could not be found, the restitution needed to be paid to the church (Numb. 5:5-10). The point being made was that restitution is important even when the victim cannot be found. It is the honor of God's law that is at stake as well as the benefit of the sinner. The following chart breaks down the general categories of restitution:

Situation	%	Proof
No sin No intent	100%	<u>Ex. 22:5-6</u> "If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed, and lets loose his animal, and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard. " If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution." Verses 11,14: "make it good."
Sin No intent	120%	<u>Lev. 5:14-19</u> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally ... he shall make restitution for the harm that he has done in regard to the holy thing, and shall add one-fifth to it and give it to the priest. So the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him. If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity. And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it, and it shall be forgiven him. It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the LORD."
Sin Intent Not caught	120%	<u>Num. 5:5-10</u> "...When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the LORD, and that person is guilty, 'then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give it to the one he has wronged. But if the man has no relative to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution for the wrong must go to the LORD for the priest, in addition to the ram of the atonement with which atonement is made for him." <u>Lev. 6:1-5</u> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "If a person sins and commits a trespass against the LORD by lying to his neighbor about what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor, or if he has found what was lost and lies concerning it, and swears falsely — in any one of these things that a man may do in which he sins: then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found, or all that about which he has sworn falsely. He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it, and give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering."
Sin Intent Caught	200%	<u>Ex. 22:4</u> "If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he shall restore double." <u>Ex. 22:7</u> "¶ If a man delivers to his neighbor money or articles to keep, and it is stolen out of the man's house, if the thief is found, he shall pay double." <u>Ex. 22:9</u> "¶ For any kind of trespass, whether it concerns an ox, a donkey, a sheep, or clothing, or for any kind of lost thing which another claims to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whomever the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor." <u>Num 5:10</u> "If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he shall restore double." <u>Gen. 43:12</u> "Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight."
Perjury related to above	400%	<u>Deut. 19:16-19</u> "If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then ... you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother..." cf <u>Luke 19:8-9</u> which shows restitution of 400% (If this tax collector was typical, he extracted money by false accusation or threat of it. The person he accused would have to pay 200%. Since his penalty must also be double, 2x200%=400%.
Disposed of simple property	400%	<u>Ex. 22:1</u> "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep."
Add value	500%	<u>Ex. 22:1</u> "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep." [The ox took training and time to make it useful as a plow animal. The sheep did not.]
Essentials or habitual	700%	<u>Prov. 6:30-31</u> People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house." <u>Lev. 26:18</u> 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins."