

Transcript

Moral judgement of others

INTERVIEWER:

Do you think this guy should steal the medicine?

SUBJECT 1:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

You don't think he should steal it? And why don't you think he should steal it?

SUBJECT 1:

A police would catch him.

INTERVIEWER:

A police would catch him? Should Heinz steal the drug?

SUBJECT 2:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

You think he should? And why do you think he should?

SUBJECT 2:

So we can save his wife.

INTERVIEWER:

OK.

SUBJECT 2:

And If he can save enough money, he should give the extra \$2,000 to the druggist or whatever.

INTERVIEWER:

And in general, should people try to do everything they can to obey the law?

SUBJECT 2:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

You think they should? And why?

SUBJECT 2:

Well, sometimes they should.

INTERVIEWER:

OK.

SUBJECT 2:

Sometimes, they shouldn't.

INTERVIEWER:

OK. So I'll ask you again. So do you think everybody should do everything they can to obey the law?

SUBJECT 2:

No way.

INTERVIEWER:

No. OK. And why do you think they shouldn't always do everything they can to obey the law?

SUBJECT 2:

Because the law might be corrupt.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you think Heinz should steal the drug?

SUBJECT 3:

I guess so, yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

You think so? And why do you think he should steal the drug?

SUBJECT 3:

Well, based upon the fact that it's immoral. The first guy is charging so much. I mean, there's absolutely no other way around it.

I'm sure you could-- well, I guess you said you couldn't think of another way. So, yeah, I guess. I mean, I guess that's the only-- I mean, that's what I'd do. It's the only option.

INTERVIEWER:

OK.

SUBJECT 3:

I mean--

INTERVIEWER:

Because the guy was immoral in the first place.

SUBJECT 3:

--yeah, I guess so.

INTERVIEWER:

And do you think it's important for people to do everything they can to save another's life?

SUBJECT 3:

I guess so, yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah? And why do you-- why do you think that?

SUBJECT 3:

Because life is valuable, I guess. A lot more important than money or, yeah, it's a lot more important than money.

INTERVIEWER:

OK. In general, should people try to do everything they can to obey the law?

SUBJECT 3:

In general, yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Mm-hmm. So times when they shouldn't obey the law, why, in general? Why do you think that?

SUBJECT 3:

Well, if there's several, I mean, if it's a matter of right and wrong, the law is clearly wrong or what the guy is doing is clearly wrong, then, I guess, there's a point where too much is too much.

INTERVIEWER:

OK. What do you mean by too much?

SUBJECT 3:

I don't know. That guy withholding medicine that isn't-- if he makes \$2,000, that's a lot of money. So, I mean, if he's pushing making \$4,000, that's just ridiculous.

INTERVIEWER:

Mm-hmm.

SUBJECT 3:

And I guess, I mean, enough is enough in that case.