

THOU SHALL NOT MURDER! Part 6!

(Scripture. Exodus 20:13)

Introduction: First 4 Commandments out of 10 Commandments come under the category of Love your Lord your God. The last 6 Commandments come under Love thy neighbor as thyself!

Today we are going to focus on the sixth commandment. These Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets by the finger of God. Many scholars debate over the last commandment in the first tablet. Was it third, or fourth, or the fifth, or the fourth extending to the second tablet! No one knows the answer. My guess is that, the first four commandments that were focused on God were in the first tablet, and the other six that were focused on our relationship to each other were in the second tablet. But the fourth commandment concerning Sabbath can be related to both man and God!

Today's topic of murder is a tough one. Many people use this commandment to ban any capital punishment. Europe has completely banned the capital punishment. But on the other hand, the Middle Eastern countries enforce it with full force. The Torah (Law) itself calls for death penalty for those who break first seven commandments, and their deeds such as sorcery.

Old Testament Law insists on eye for an eye, tooth for tooth, and life for life. God established life for life during Noah's time itself. (Gen. 9:6).

But Jesus taught us that we should not even go that far to commit murder. We must catch it early!

Quiz time!

There are three important people that literally got away with murder!

Who are they? Cain, (there was no law!), Moses, (justified killing?) and David! David really got away by sheer grace. But his child paid the penalty.

When Moses heard this Law for the first time, it must have pricked his own conscience! Moses was a murderer also!

Thou shall not murder!

According to Jesus, Even if you get angry, you become murderous.

Matthew 5:21, 22. 21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Why go that far to kill a person? Why can't we stop that feeling of hatred, bitterness, and excessive anger before it drives us out of control to hit someone or speak very harsh words toward that person? We will not even think about hurting someone's feelings if we catch it early. Anger is a good signal. When that fire starts, it is better to move to a quieter place to examine our situation in a rationale manner,

It is said that Julius Caesar won many victories over his own spirit by the simple rule never to speak or act when provoked until he had repeated slowly the Roman alphabet.

Anger management: Anger is like a fire. We can let it burn wild and engulf everything and destroy everything. Or we can channel that anger as a creative power and shape our relationship for better! Let us not stab and kill the spirit of someone with our harsh words! Let us stop before we spill out angry words to hurt someone.

Heed to the words of Jesus. He actually moves us far from the murderous feelings by making us focus on our anger and teaches us to handle that fire with care. He also let the adulterous woman go out of compassion! Mercy and compassion can melt our anger!

Capital punishment must be used as a rare method. Just because a murderer lost his senses to commit a senseless murder does not mean that we should use our senses to take revenge senselessly. Gandhi said that eye for an eye will make the whole world blind! The option of capital punishment must be on the table, but it must be used very occasionally.

Swift punishments also no good! There is a good possibility that there may not be any fair trial. Also the person who committed the crime has very little time to repent of his sins. We not only kill him quickly, but we send him to hell also too quickly!
(Dubai child molester case. Shot to dead instantly).

On the other hand, in USA, we prolong our trials for ten or fifteen years, and then kill that person. That is also not the right thing to do.

David escaped the murder charge personally, but the sword did not depart from his ancestry. It was a bloody history. Father had to fight against his own son Absalom!

Before murder, excessive anger or covetousness comes. Before excessive anger, excessive hatred comes. Before excessive hatred, excessive condemnation comes. Before excessive condemnation, excessive judgement comes. Before excessive judgement, lack of love comes. Now read the Sermon on the Mount (Mat. 5-7) and see the order for yourself.

So why don't we focus on love so that we may not judge other person excessively. Now we know why Jesus had so much to say about judging others, and condemning others.

We may have every right to kill a person legally, but we must restrain to life sentence with the possibility of parole so that that person may have opportunity to repent and give his life to Christ.

Thou shall not kill means, thou shall not kill anyone, which includes self also. Our life is a gift from God. If we take away that life, we throw away God's gift, and insult Him by destroying that precious God's gift itself. Not only that, we demonstrate clearly that we lost our trust and hope in God, and we imply that our problem of life is bigger than God Himself, and He cannot pull us out of it.

Where is our faith? Faith and suicide are diametrically opposite! We will stand before God ashamed, not only because of our horrendous choice of committing suicide, but because of our refusal to trust in our loving Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we shed blood out of pride and arrogance. The egotistic duel gun fight in western world?

Colonel Gardiner, having received a challenge to fight a duel, made the following truly noble and Christian reply: I fear sinning, though you know, sir, I do not fear fighting"; thus showing his conviction of a fact too often forgotten, that the most impressive manifestation of courage is to "obey God rather than man.

God has created each one in His own image! Destroying that life for no apparent reason is a heinous crime! God will not let that person escape without punishing him.

Conclusion: Respect for life is the key! Stop that murderous feeling early.

He that hates his brother is a murderer!

*1 John 2:11 **11**But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

*1 John 3:14, 15. **14**We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. **15**Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

Why judge? Why so much anger? Why condemn? Why so much hate?

Love your enemy too! Try to bless them and pray for them instead of hurting them!

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