



The Righteous Shall Live By Faith

A Study of the Ten Commandments

Lesson 7

Murder

REVIEW OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY:

1. The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt.
2. God heard the cry of His people and sent Moses to Pharaoh.
3. Pharaoh did not honor God or obey God, he would not let the people go.
4. God sent 10 plagues.
5. Pharaoh releases the Hebrews but changes his mind, chasing the Hebrews through the Red Sea.
6. God gave the law to Moses, who gave them to the Israelites.
7. Israelites did not trust God and take the land so they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.
8. Moses reminded the Israelites of what God has done for them and told them the law again.

In Light of OT History

What do you think happened to the people who were in the land that the Israelites were going to possess?
Doesn't the Bible say we are not supposed to kill?

Exodus 20:13 (ESV) ¹³ "You shall not murder."

"Murder" — This verb only refers to killing humans and not animals. It never refers to killing in a war and does not refer to a killing that has been ordered by the court. It prohibits thought-out murder and/or accidental murder (or manslaughter). Broadly it refers to any unlawful killing, killing of innocent life.

Thinking about the text

Does this verse say that we should not kill?
What is the positive command understood in this commandment?

ISRAEL DID NOT BREAK THIS COMMANDMENT WHEN KILLING THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND

When God told Israel to kill the people in the promised land, it was God's punishment for the wickedness of these people through war on them.

AMERICAN SOLDIER'S DID NOT BREAK THIS COMMANDMENT WHEN KILLING COMBATANTS

When American Soldiers killed Nazi Soldiers in WWII or killing Islamic Terrorist in the war on terror. Americans were actually keeping this commandment by protecting lives of Jewish people and other law abiding people.

The best way to understand Scripture is by studying other Scriptures which talk about the same subject.



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Jesus on Murder

Matthew 5:21-25 (ESV)

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.

Thinking about the text

What is Jesus saying about the Sixth Commandment?

What does Matthew 5:21-22 say that anger leads to? Why is this so? What else could anger lead to?

Why do you think Jesus is talking about wrong attitudes instead of just about wrong actions?

How quickly should we try to make things right with a person who has a problem with us?

Attitudes come from the heart. The real problem is not our actions, but our hearts.

THE EXAMPLE IN THE ACCOUNT OF CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:3–8 (ESV)

³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.” ⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Thinking about the text

What led to Cain’s killing of Abel?_What kind of killing did Cain do—lawful or unlawful killing?

You can have a little anger in your heart towards and person and not take his/her life. If in your thoughts and in your heart, you wished them harm, you have committed murder—even without the action of murdering.

If you do not confess your sin to the Lord, your anger can lead to hurtful actions and even murder.



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Failing at the Sixth Commandment is failing at the First Commandment

James 4:1–4 (ESV)

¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Thinking about the text

What does this verse tell us about why we break the Ten Commandments?

How is breaking these commandments, not to murder or not to covet, grounded in the First Commandment?

What “other gods” do we have “before us” when we quarrel and fight?

What other desires (idols) beside God are in our hearts?

Breaking other Commandments is really a reflection of our failure to keep the First Commandment.

IF WE GET REALLY ANGRY AT A PERSON, OR RESENTFUL OR ENVIOUS...TAKE NOTE...SOMETHING IS WRONG

An emotion of anger, resentment, or envy is like an alarm that tells us to pay attention to something.

Many times the above emotions show that someone has attacked an idol in our hearts.

A broken relationship with an offended brother affects our heart attitude and relationship with God.

LOVING AND PROTECTING OUR NEIGHBORS IS A MARK OF A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

A positive command from this sixth commandment is that we are to love, rather than hate, others.

Another positive command from this sixth commandment is that we are to protect human life.

We love our neighbors by warning them of imminent danger.

We protect our neighbors by speaking out for the value of those who are least able to speak out.