

MAD ENOUGH TO KILL

Exodus 20:13

June 28, 2009 Sunday pm

INTRODUCTION

- A. Murder is a terrible thing. As Clint Eastwood put it in his latest western movie, **“When you kill a man, you take away everything he has and everything he is ever going to have.”** (**Unforgiven**)
 - 1. Murder was the first crime mentioned in the Bible when Cain killed his brother Abel.
 - 2. In every generation life has been cheap.
- B. Against this back drop the sixth commandment stands out like a super nova. God said **“Thou shalt not kill”** (Exodus 20:13 KJV). Let’s take a closer look at what He means.

I. WHAT DOES THIS COMMANDMENT MEAN?

- A. The Old Testament contains ten Hebrew words for kill.
 - 1. The word used here in Exodus 20:13 means “to murder” (“ratsach”).
 - 2. Jesus interpreted this word to be murder in Matthew 19:18 (NIV & KJV).
- B. Care must be taken not to make this commandment say more than it meant to say, as some individuals and groups have tried to do. All murder is killing, but not all killing is murder. For example...
 - 1. It doesn’t refer to killing animals. God instructed Israel to both eat animals and sacrifice them to Him (Genesis 9:3).
 - 2. It doesn’t refer to warfare. God instructed Israel to go to war in order to take possession of Canaan (Deut. 13:15).
 - 3. It doesn’t refer to capital punishment. God gave instructions to Israel regarding capital punishment (Exodus 21:12).
 - 4. It doesn’t refer to manslaughter or accidental death. God gave instructions for the protection of people in such cases (Numbers 35:22-23).
 - 5. It doesn’t refer to self protection. God’s instructions are found in scripture (Exodus 22:2-3).
 - 6. It doesn’t refer to suicide, assuming a person who does such a thing is not sane.
- C. God’s motivation for issuing this prohibition against murder is found in Genesis 9:5-6.
 - ⁵ **And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.**
 - ⁶ **“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.**

II. JESUS FOCUSED ON THE ATTITUDE AS WELL AS THE ACTION OF MURDER.

- A. Jesus understood that the act of murder is preceded by the attitude of murder.
 - 1. Jesus took this commandment to the nth degree.
 - 2. He not only forbids striking the fatal blow, but also forbids the passion that prompts the blow.
 - 3. This is the point Jesus made in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:21-22).
 - ²¹ **“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’** ²² **But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca, ’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.**

4. Jesus knew that outward actions, even murder, was the result of inward hostility and anger (Mark 7:20-23).
²⁰ **He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' ²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"**
 5. The apostle John echoed these words (1 John 3:15).
¹⁵ **Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.**
- B. Jesus provides the solution for both the attitude and act that leads to murder.
1. The answer is love (Matthew 5:43-44).
⁴³ **"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'**
⁴⁴ **But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you**
 2. Paul concurred (Romans 13:9-10).
⁹ **The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**

CONCLUSION

- A. Chances are we will never be guilty of breaking the sixth commandment.
- B. We can, however, be guilty of harboring anger against others. This anger could lead to actions, murder or otherwise.
- C. The solution is to love others as God does.