
SERMON NOTES October 3, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Exodus 20:13 & Matthew 5:21-22

The Heart of Murder

Pastor Mike

I. _____ the 6th Commandment

a. _____ over a clear command

b. The difference between _____ and _____

II. The _____ for the command; The _____ of Life

III. Exposing the _____ behind murder

a. The destructive power of _____

b. How a murderous heart _____

c. The _____ and _____ of our words

IV. How a murderous heart can be _____

Our ability to _____ comes from God's _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. At first it would seem that the 6th commandment is straightforward, but the disagreements about what this commandment means can be intense. People use it to argue against things like all war, capital punishment, killing animals for food, abortion, and euthanasia.
 - a. Why do you think there is such widespread and intense disagreement about what this commandment means?
 - b. How does the meaning and application of the commandment change if you understand it doesn't say, "You shall not kill," but instead "you shall not murder?"
2. The basis for the command against murder is the intrinsic value of human life established by God in the fact that all people are created in God's image. It is because God has placed value on each life that we are to value and protect human life.
 - a. If apply this Biblical world-view to all aspects of our thinking and life, what issues beyond murder are spoken to by this command?
 - b. If someone did not have a Biblical world view, and saw life only as the product of random biological processes, what could they point to as a possible basis for the value of human life?
3. Matthew 5:21-22 connects the action of murder with the attitude of anger. What is the connection between murder and anger?
 - a. Most of us harbor some unresolved anger towards someone, but we've lived with it for years and we consider it a small manageable problem. According to Jesus' teaching, is unresolved anger ever a small manageable problem? Explain your answer.
 - b. Why do we often see anger as a small manageable problem that we just learn to live with?
 - c. Is anger ever justified and not sinful? Is unresolved anger ever justified and not sinful? What is the difference between these ideas?
 - d. According to the Bible is it possible to live with unresolved anger and not have that anger impact us and cause destruction in our lives? Explain your answer.
4. In Matthew 5 Jesus draws a parallel between physical violence and verbal violence.
 - a. What is your initial response to the parallel Jesus draws between the action of murder, the heart of anger, and the action of disparaging speech?
 - b. What is actually "killed" when you misuse the weapon of your mouth? Why is this kind of murder just as heinous in God's eyes as actually killing someone with a knife or a gun?
5. In Ephesians 4:26-27, Paul calls us to "not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Why is this important and what are the dangers if we fail to apply this?
 - a. Paul continues in verse 27, warning that when we fail to deal with and resolve our anger, we give the devil a foothold in our lives, leading to other sin. What sins can grow from the foothold of anger? Will unresolved anger always give the devil a foothold in our lives?
 - b. Is it possible for a person to have a significant amount of unresolved anger and not be consciously aware of that anger? If so, how? Can we think that we have forgiven someone for an offense, and yet still harbor significant anger toward him or her?
 - c. How can we become aware of unresolved anger in our hearts?
 - d. Is there someone in your life with whom you may have unresolved anger? Who do you need to forgive? Who do you need to seek reconciliation with? What steps will you take this week to pursue healing in this relationship?