

# Exodus: Journey of Revelation - Week 8

Sermon Date 11/6/2016

## QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Looking back at your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

## The Goal

This week we are looking at Commandments Six and Seven: do not murder and do not commit adultery. Depending on their history and point of view, both of these topics can be hot button issues for some people. The Goal of this study is to unpack what God meant when He said "murder" and how it applies to us today. Also, and by no means lesser than the topic of murder, is the idea of adultery. Please be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as these could become negative conversations very quickly. Keep it positive. Remember these commandments were given at Mount Sinai and were illuminated by the holiness of God. The Goal of this study will be how to guard our hearts with Christ's help.

## MY STORY

- 1) Looking back at last week, what did you learn about honoring your parents?
- 2) Is there something you need to shift in your life about how you view authority?
- 3) What was your takeaway from last week's study?

## DIGGING DEEPER

Exodus 20:13-14 (NLT)

<sup>13</sup> "You must not murder." <sup>ii</sup>

## *From The Apologetics Study Bible*

Should we never kill people, or simply not commit murder? According to the Bible, death was not part of God's original plan for humanity, but became part of the human experience as a result of humanity's sin (Gn 2:17; 3:19; Rm 5:12; Heb 9:27). All human beings are made in God's image (Gn 1:26-27) and therefore all human life is sacred and to be treated with special respect. At the same time, the law of Moses sanctions the taking of human life as a penalty for certain serious crimes committed against persons or God (Gn 9:6; Ex 21:12-17; 31:14-15; 35:2; Lv 20:2, 9-16, 27; 24:16-17, 21; 27:29; Nm 35:33; Dt 13:5-9; 21:21; 22:21).

The NT implicitly affirms the right of governmental authorities to impose the death penalty (Rm 13:4). The Bible's prescription of the death penalty in certain circumstances is aimed at preventing greater evils from occurring, and thus preserves the principle of the sacredness of human life. Murder, the unauthorized taking of human life, is clearly what this command prohibits.<sup>i</sup>

- 4) What does it mean to "murder"?
- 5) Is there a difference between murder and killing in self-defense?

#### From The New American Commentary

Jesus cites what was spoken "to the people long ago," an expression that could also be rendered "in ancient times" or "by people long ago." In any event, he refers to the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue given on Mount Sinai (Exod 20:13). "Murder" is the correct rendering since the underlying Hebrew (*ratsach*, sometimes translated "kill") did not include killing in self-defense, was ordered by Yahweh, capital punishment following due process of law, or accidental manslaughter. "Subject to" could also be rendered "liable." Christ refers to one who currently stands condemned and is therefore in danger of judgment, but judgment is not inevitable if the proper remedy is sought. Like Moses, Jesus condemns murder, but he goes on to claim that harboring wrath in one's heart is also sinful and deserving of punishment (he doesn't say it is as bad!)<sup>ii</sup>

#### Matthew 5:21-22 (The Message Bible)

"You're familiar with the command to the ancients, 'Do not murder.' I'm telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot!' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill."<sup>iii</sup>

- 6) These verses from Matthew show Jesus speaking to a crowd on the Mount of Olives. How does Jesus help the people of the crowd dig deeper and see the intent of the commandment "do not murder?"
- 7) What does Jesus teach us in these verses about the attitudes of our heart?

#### Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

- 8) In light of Jesus explaining that the heart is the place where attitudes and sin flow from, how can the passage from Philippians be of help to the Christian?

9) How do the things we think about impact the way we speak and view people around us?

From *The Bible Exposition Commentary*

Jesus affirmed God's law of purity, and then explained that the intent of this law was to reveal the sanctity of sex and the sinfulness of the human heart. God created sex, and God protects sex. He has the authority to regulate it and to punish those who rebel against His laws. He does not regulate sex because He wants to rob us, but rather, because He wants to bless us. Whenever God says, "No" it is that He might say "Yes."

Sexual impurity begins in the desires of the heart. Again, Jesus is not saying that lustful desires are identical to lustful deeds, and therefore a person might just as well go ahead and commit adultery. The desire and the deed are not identical, but, spiritually speaking, they are equivalent. The "look" that Jesus mentioned was not a casual glance, but a constant stare *with the purpose of lusting*. It is possible for a man to glance at a beautiful woman and know that she is beautiful, but not lust after her. The man Jesus described looked at the woman *for the purpose of feeding his inner sensual appetites* as a substitute for the act. It was not accidental; it was planned.

How do we get victory? By purifying the desires of the heart (appetite leads to action) and disciplining the actions of the body. Obviously, our Lord is not talking about literal surgery; for this would not solve the problem in the heart. The eye and the hand are usually the two "culprits" when it comes to sexual sins, so they must be disciplined. Jesus said, "Deal immediately and decisively with sin! Don't taper off—cut off!" Spiritual surgery is more important than physical surgery, for the sins of the body can lead to eternal judgment. <sup>iv</sup> This note also goes along with the Matthew 5:27-30 passages.

<sup>14</sup> "You must not commit adultery." <sup>v</sup>

10) What does it mean when it says "adultery?"

Any type of sexual relations outside of a marriage between a husband and wife. Including but not limited to: sex before marriage, same sex marriage, and sex outside of a marriage. Let's not forget emotional affairs can be as damaging as the physical kind.

Matthew 5:27-30 (NLT)

"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.'<sup>28</sup> But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.<sup>29</sup> So if your eye—even your good eye causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.<sup>30</sup> And if your hand—even your stronger hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."<sup>vi</sup>

- 11) What is Jesus teaching us here about sin and our hearts?
- 12) Verses 29-30 sound extreme, and Jesus is speaking about taking drastic measures to protect our hearts from sin. What kind of measures would be considered extreme in today's culture to protect ourselves from adultery?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." <sup>vii</sup>

- 13) In Proverbs 4:23, we see two significant thoughts about our hearts. First we are told to guard our heart. What do you think the writer means?
- 14) How can we apply the principals from the previous question?

Proverbs 4:23 (English Standard Version)

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." <sup>viii</sup>

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

- 15) If the first part of the verse is about guarding our hearts, what flows from our hearts and why is it important?
- 16) What does it mean by "springs of life", and why is it important?

## **CHAIR TIME TOOLS**

This week pray and think about Proverbs 4:23.

- 17) What is flowing from your heart?
- 18) What are some things you need to stop doing and what are some things you need to start doing in regards to guarding your heart?

Our hearts are much like fountains, whatever we have inside tends to be sprayed out on those around us. Are the things in our hearts building up or tearing down those around us? Our thought life is a part of our heart and can greatly impact what comes out of us.

- 19) Is my thinking a Christ-centered thought process? In other words, am I only thinking about myself or am I thinking about how I can serve others? Am I thinking like a victor in

Christ or am I blaming others for the consequences of my choices? Do I surrender to God's grace and let Him shape me?

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<sup>i</sup> Ted Cabal et al., *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 118.

<sup>ii</sup> Craig Blomberg, *Matthew*, vol. 22, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 106.

<sup>iii</sup> Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2005), Mt. 5:21–22.

<sup>iv</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, Vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 23–24.

<sup>v</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Ex. 20:13–14.

<sup>vi</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt. 5:27–30.

<sup>vii</sup> *The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Prov. 4:23.

<sup>viii</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Prov. 4:23.