

T H E T E N

COMMANDMENTS

THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

SERMON NOTES

Week 6 September 24, 2023

"Do Not Kill: Overcoming Evil with Good"

Exodus 20:13, 22:2-3; Genesis 6:11, 9:6; Leviticus 19:16;

Micah 4:3; Isaiah 11:6-7, 9; Matthew 5:21-22, 43-45;

Luke 6:29; Ephesians 4:29, 31-32; Romans 12:21

I. The Sixth Commandment in Hebrew Scriptures

- A. The sixth commandment: "Do not _____."
- B. The Bible's first murder occurs very early in scripture, in _____ 4. (Cain kills his brother Abel.)
- C. Every human being is created in the _____ of God; so when you harm another human being, you are harming something that belongs to God.

II. The Sixth Commandment in the 21st Century

- A. Leviticus 19:16 implies an _____ to intervene and rescue one who is endangered.
- B. The law of Moses says, if you are able to _____ a thief by an action short of killing them, you must.
- C. The Bible allows for _____ to take up arms to defend against aggression.

III. Sixth Commandment Through the Eyes of Jesus

- A. Jesus extended the sixth commandment to prohibit not just killing others but harming them by way of _____ or emotional attack.
- B. The apostle Paul says our words need to build up and give _____ to those who hear them.
- C. Jesus says we are to _____ our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.
- D. Jesus teaches his disciples that they have to _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 25-30, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

The sixth commandment, “do not murder,” seems straightforward at first. However, Jesus came along and broadened the meaning of this commandment; and we find that his words have implications far beyond the taking of another human life. So what does this commandment mean for us today?

Monday: Exodus 20:13, Numbers 35:16-21

Later this week we'll read Jesus' teaching about this commandment. He brought deeper meanings from it than God's Hebrew children seem to have discerned. Could it be that this was one of those issues (like, say, slavery) where God led God's people as far as they could go in their time and culture, while having more to reveal at a later time?

Tuesday: Genesis 4:18-19, 23-24; 6:11, 13

In the early years of the 20th century, many people said humanity had progressed far beyond our violent past. Then World War I began and seriously damaged that confidence in human moral progress. World War II and the Nazi genocide happened about two decades later. More recently, genocidal actions have killed tens of thousands in Rwanda and Darfur. Should it humble us to realize how much like the violent people in the primeval history in Genesis we tend to be?

Wednesday: Matthew 5:21-24, 1 John 3:15

Why do you think we sometimes find it satisfying to express contempt for people who disagree with us or are different, and tear down their reputation? Are there relationships in which you have found it possible to disagree respectfully, seeking common ground rather than “victory”? If so, how can you extend those dynamics to more of your interactions?

Thursday: Leviticus 20:10, John 8:1-11

Jesus told the self-righteous accusers, in effect, “You need to be sinless to condemn others. If you are, step up and cast the first stone.” By Jesus' standard, do you qualify to “throw stones” at anyone else? Does anyone? (Jesus was the only sinless person in the scene. But, because he was sinless, he hadn't come to throw stones - cf. John 3:17.) What steps can you take in your home, your office, your school, or your church to make “stone-throwing” a thing of the past?

Friday: Romans 12:9, 13:9-10

How might death-dealing religious episodes in history (e.g. the Salem witch trials, the Inquisition) have been different if Christians had always followed “love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor”? How can you stand for truths that matter to you without doing or wishing harm to those who disagree? Do you believe Paul understood Jesus correctly, or was he too soft on “law breakers”?

MOVING FORWARD

The theological basis for the 6th commandment is that every human being is created in the image of God, so when you harm another human being, you are harming something that belongs to God. But Jesus came along and extended the sixth commandment to prohibit not just killing others but harming them by way of insult or emotional attack. When we are harming another human being, whether it is by our words or by our actions, we are violating the spirit of the sixth commandment.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) murder, B) Genesis, C) image. IIA) obligation, B) stop, IIC) nations. IIIA) insult, B) grace, C) love, D) forgive.