

The Patio Pulpit For August 12, 2020
The Ten Commandments
“Thou Shalt Not Kill”
Exodus 20:13

Before I get into the lesson for tonight, I feel compelled to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead. I believe that solely by the grace of God. “I once was lost, but now I’m found; was blind but now I see.”

TEXT: Exodus 20 and v.13, “You shall not murder.”

What is our rule for interpreting Scripture? “The Spirit is King; context His queen.” You may remember from last week or maybe the week before I referred to what the Reformers called “The Analogy of Scripture” which means “Scripture interprets Scripture.” They recognized the essential matter of context when it comes to rightly dividing the word of truth. And context includes grammatical context. That’s why we study words and sentence structure. It’s also why we study historical context and sometimes geographical context.

The Holy Spirit working with the word of God and our applying the rules of context to the word makes the student of the word of God think.

Now, I want you to think about this. The God-given ten commandments never stopped anyone from breaking them. In fact, the behavior forbidden by the commandments was a part of life among the Jews before the commandments were given and they were a part of life among the Jews long after they were given. They were never intended to stop the Jews behavior. Nothing God has ever done was done in order to put an end to sin in this present life. But we have discussed that several times in the past (Rom. 7:25).

Now in line with the sixth commandment, listen to this, “More than three dozen of America’s largest cities are seeing a double-digit surge in [homicide rates](#), a new report finds.” And that news was issued this past week. “From Jan. 1 through the end of July, there were 440 homicides in Chicago and 2,240 people were shot, a number that includes those killed, according to the Chicago Police Department.”

The murder rate is astronomical in Central and South America and almost zilch in Asian nations, including Israel. Some of the world's most popular vacation spots have an alarmingly high rate of homicides. If I won a trip to Mexico on Wheel of Fortune, I wouldn't go.

¹³ *Thou shalt not kill*" Or, "*You shall not murder.*"

So, which is it, kill or murder? Well, it's murder. And according to the context of the sixth commandment there's a huge difference.

This is one of the most misinterpreted and misapplied of all the commandments. I'll explain that as I go through this the sixth commandment. Here it is from the New American Standard Bible: ¹³ "*You shall not murder.*" (Exod. 20:13 NAU). The King James renders it "*Thou shalt not kill.*" And that's where the problem began. Every other English Bible I checked has it "murder" rather than "kill."

Lo teer tzakh is the English spelling of the Hebrew word for murder. לֹא תִרְצַח: ה: ט

"Lo teer tzakh." And means literally "you shall not murder or slay as in an unjust manner. It also carries with it the idea of premeditated murder. So, the notion that it means "thou shalt not kill" is an error. If you're interested, the Hebrew word for "kill" *harig* is הרג

The context of teer tzakh makes it clear that the word is murder, not "kill".

Many times Israel was commanded by God to kill the pagans in the Wilderness who were their enemies and God's as well. Why?

²⁶ *then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him.*

²⁷ *He said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Every man of you put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.'"*

²⁸ *So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day. (Exod. 32:21-28 NAU)*

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And this, ¹⁵ *'If there is a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal.*

¹⁶ *'If there is a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them. (Lev. 20:15-16 NAU)*

And this one more, ¹⁴ *Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the captains of thousands and the captains of hundreds, who had come from service in the war.*

¹⁵ *And Moses said to them, "Have you spared all the women?*

¹⁶ *"Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the congregation of the LORD.*

¹⁷ *"Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man intimately.*

¹⁸ *"But all the girls who have not known man intimately, spare for yourselves. (Num. 31:14-18 NAU)*

Now, lest you get upset with God, keep in mind that this was ordered of the Jews and of the Jews only. And it was commanded while the stubborn, stiff-necked Jews were still in the Wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. It was commanded against the enemies of God no matter who they were or what gender they were or how old they were. It was very much like our modern-day cancer surgeons removing cancer from the body of the patient. The Jews who had blasphemed God and made images to worship along with the pagans living in the Wilderness who waged war with the people of God, were to be removed like a cancer is removed from the body. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump."

The commandment literally reads, "You shall not slay unjustly. You shall not murder with premeditation or on the moment."

Now, let's chase a rabbit for a few minutes while I show you something I never saw before doing my study of the ten commandments and their context and that's kinda funny.

What did I see? Its the motive behind the making of the golden calf. Exodus 32:21ff.

²¹ *Then Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you, that you have brought such great sin upon them?"* Did you catch that? That is fascinating. Moses saw into Aaron's heart and what was truly behind his capitulation to the clamor of the Jews. "Aaron, my brother. I know they must have done something to you pretty bad to make you do such a stupid thing. Surely you would never have done something like this without a good reason. What did these people ever do to you that you would seek vengeance upon them by allowing them to do something so evil? You knew that God wouldn't put up with such blasphemy."

It's revenge idolatry. The Jews were so evil that they were getting on Aaron's last nerve. So, when they demanded of Aaron that he make them an idol to worship and to lead them into the Promised Land, he gave them exactly what they asked for. This to Aaron was **payback time**.

²² *Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord burn; **you know the people yourself, that they are prone to evil.**"*

²³ *"**For they said to me, 'Make a god for us who will go before us; for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'**"*

²⁴ *"**I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them tear it off.'** So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, **and out came this calf.**"* "Go figure. I threw their gold bling into the fire and, voila, out came this golden calf. Who knew? Wasn't my fault. They asked for it so I gave it to them."

²⁵ *Now when Moses saw that the people were **out of control-- for Aaron had let them get out of control** to be a derision among their enemies—*

The Jews were completely out of control. They were running wild and very possibly naked. And Aaron just stood by and watched. He let them go out of control intentionally. "Go ahead, you evil fools. Act a

fool. The heathen around us are watching you and they think the people of God are a bunch of buffoons. You may feel exhilarated now, but sooner or later you will answer to God for your blatant wickedness. You will reap what you are sowing. God is not mocked.”

Beloved, there are so-called churches around the world who are out of control. They are running wild and allowing and promoting behaviors that are nothing less than bizarre. They put on rock ‘n roll concerts, not worship. Their leaders jump and dance around on their platforms and allow the congregants to be mesmerized by the repetitive music and word. The leaders allow their followers to sleep together, fornicate, live in sexual immorality without ever disciplining them. How could they discipline people whom they will never meet. And why would the leaders want to when they themselves are wicked and sensual?

****This is a picture** of one such leader, Carl Lentz, pastor of Hillsong Church in New York City, with his friend, Justin Bieber.

I close with this: Beloved, “you shall not murder” is a commandment that reminds us today of God’s clear will for humanity. But Jesus taught us that murder is more subtle than we could have possibly imagined. Murder is also a matter of the heart and mind and soul. If we hate a brother or sister in Christ, we are guilty of murder.

⁹ *The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.*

¹⁰ *The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.*

¹¹ *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

(1 Jn. 2:9-11 NAU)

¹⁵ *Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1 Jn. 3:15 NAU)*

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²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

(1 Jn. 4:20-21 NAU)

Aren't you thankful that we are not "under the law?"

Aren't you thankful that God first loved us that we might love Him and one another?

Aren't we glad that it's all about Jesus and His finished work on the cross?

Aren't we glad that Jesus paid for all our sins, past, present and future with His blood?

Aren't we thankful that in Christ we are walking in the light as He is in the light and His blood cleanses us of all unrighteous?

Aren't you and I thankful that we love one another at Eastway Baptist Church?

In Jesus' name. Amen.