

TEN | You Shall Not Murder

David Green July 11, 2021

Introduction

Today we're going to be diving into the 6th commandment: You shall not murder. And whether you've ever murdered someone or not, I think the Lord has something for us all in this.

ME

I have a distinct memory of walking on my college campus — I passed a complete stranger, and she said, "Oh my goodness, are you okay?" I was like, "What?" "You look like you want to kill someone!" No, I'm just headed to class.

So, one of the things I have been told my whole life is, "You're terrifying...." Now, some people actually say that, and others will express it differently. Like, "I used to think you hated me...." People who have become close friends have told me, "I'm so glad we're friends, and it's crazy, 'cause I thought you hated me...and everyone else for that matter."

And when I started working in full time ministry, it became an even bigger problem. People would complain about me, "He's not approachable or welcoming." It was a big enough problem at one point, it made it into my yearly review. I always just thought people misunderstood me. *Which is a subtle way of saying, everyone else is the problem.* It wasn't until I was meeting with my counselor — *that I really considered the possibility that I was the problem.* And that it wasn't just my face. **It was that my face and my demeanor might actually be a reflection of what was happening at a heart level in me.**

WE

I think this is something we all struggle with in our own way — not necessarily that you're not welcoming and approachable — but that there is something unresolved and undealt with in all of us — and it surfaces in various ways. You may be sitting here and completely aware of how you struggle with this. You might even relate to my story. Or maybe it's more of a blind spot. And it results in a violation of this commandment, based on the way we see Jesus talk about it. *But there is no risk in searching your heart with the Lord to see what you find. There's only risk in not searching.* **As we look at what Jesus has to say about this commandment, we are all at risk of violating it.**

"You shall not murder"

*Commandments 1-4 are about honoring God
Commandments 5-10 are about honoring others
If you follow 1-4 — then 5-10 will be a natural byproduct*

Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder.

- God made man in His own likeness
- Humankind is of infinite value to the Creator
- *Nothing is more at the heart of Judeo-Christian tradition than the sanctity of human life*

“whoever is angry ... without a cause”

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus revisits some of the commandments and expounds on them.

Matthew 5:21-22

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' **22** But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Anger without cause

*The implication of that phrasing, is that **sometimes there is a cause worthy of our anger***

- Scripture clarifies several times that this is the case
 - When it is directed at sin, or wickedness
 - **Psalm 7:11** tells us that God is angry with the wicked every day
 - **Mark 3:5** tells us that Jesus looked at the Pharisees with anger as they stood around hoping to accuse him of healing on the sabbath
 - **Ephesians 4:26** – Scripture tells us, **“Be angry and do not sin...”**

Many followers of Christ feel like *all* anger is wrong

- Like we're just not allowed to be angry
- That's not true, and not biblical
- Paul writes - Be angry
- Not, you might get angry sometimes, but try not to sin
- Not, well it's kind of inevitable that you're going to get angry, just try to keep it clean

BE angry

- We should be angry sometimes — we live in a world filled with sin and wickedness
- If sin and wickedness doesn't make us angry, then something is wrong
- Tim Keller defines this type of anger as *“Energy aroused in defense of something good and released against something evil”*
- Without anger, love is cheap and means far less
- This anger against sin is not what Jesus is speaking of

Jesus is condemning anger without cause

- That is anger that is unjust, hasty anger where there is no offense or no intended offense
- In that case it is evil, and a violation of the 6th commandment

1 John 3:15

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Raca!

Matthew 5: 22

22 And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

- The word *raca* is expressive of great contempt
- Word used to describe something that is empty or worthless

You are describing another human being, created in the image of God, as being worthless or empty

This is a violation of the 6th commandment

Fool!

Matthew 5:22

22 But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

- This term *fool* means dull or stupid
- It was typically used to express high amounts of guilt

You are describing another human being, created in the image of God, as being stupid or guilty

This is a violation of the 6th commandment

Jesus condemns all of these

Jesus takes the commandment to not murder to another level

Matthew 5:23-24

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24** leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

- This is how serious this is to God
- Jesus is saying, if you have violated these principles in any way and you show up to offer me a gift, I need you to leave and go make it right first!

Love your neighbor

Romans provides further direction on not murdering

Romans 13:8-10

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

9 For the commandments, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER," "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS," "YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- **All the commandments about honoring people are summed up in that one statement**
- ***You shall love your neighbor as yourself***

Love your enemy

Let's see what Jesus has to say about loving our neighbor in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:43 – 48

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- What is an enemy? Someone who can harm you
- Often the people who can hurt you are the ones who are closest to you
- **And Jesus isn't trying to make a point – *He's actually giving a directive here***
- **He is asking us to love our enemies**

Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

THIS IS SOMETHING JESUS IS ACTUALLY ASKING US TO DO

- Have you ever seen a class on loving your enemies? — NO!
- *Because we don't intend on actually doing what Jesus said*
- Trying not to get mad vs. becoming someone who doesn't get mad easily

You

1. **Do an inventory of your life**
2. There are a lot of areas you could look at:
 - a. Driving
 - b. Politics
 - c. Facebook
 - d. Relationship where a person doesn't respect you
 - e. People with bad boundaries
3. Maybe you struggle with just the anger part of what we've talked about today
 - a. Maybe you get angry with people way too easily
 - b. And there's no cause for it
4. Maybe you struggle with finding value in people
 - a. Are you just think people are dumb, worthless, or empty
5. Or maybe you struggle with loving your neighbor
 - a. What does that even look like?
6. Or maybe, you've been hurt
 - a. And you can't even imagine what it would look like to love you enemy – that person who has hurt you

We

Three things we can do as disciples of Christ to reflect the heart of God that is found within the 6th commandment — to become people who do what Jesus commanded

1. Come back to Commandments 1-4

- Commandments 5-10 are a natural byproduct of 1-4
- Honor God

- No other Gods. No idols. Don't take the Lord's name in vain. Remember the Sabbath.
- The idea that you could somehow become what Jesus describes apart from God is ridiculous

2. Be Discipled

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- You become like who or what you're around

3. Make disciples

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss how the commandment not to murder is founded in the creation story, where God made man in His own image. Relate to the sanctity of human life.
2. What are legitimate situations / causes worthy of our anger. How should that anger be controlled?
3. Have you been guilty of calling (or thinking of) someone as a fool, or thinking of them with great contempt? How does this violate the 6th Commandment?
4. How did Jesus take the commandment to not murder to another level in Matthew 5:23-24? Do you / have you ever actually practiced this?
5. In 1 John 3:15 Jesus said that whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. Discuss this.
6. Who is discipling you? Who are you discipling?

NOTES