

“Do not murder”

Exodus 20:13

Introduction

- We are taking a few months to go through the 10 Commandments found in Exodus Chapter 20
 - Now why in the world in New Testament age of Grace Times would we want to do that?

Well for one reason on Wednesday Nights we are looking at the Book of Exodus from which the 10 Commandments come in its entirety

- And seeing the context for what we are studying is so important and so I want to connect the two
 - This week.....

Okay, sounds interesting but why are we studying the law with all its weird customs and dietary laws

- Well remember the first five books of the Bible are called the Law, but much of it is what the New Testament calls the Law of Moses
 - the holidays the Jews were supposed to keep
 - the rights of cleanliness that the Jews were to do
 - the Law of Moses was given to the Jewish people for that time
- The 10 commandments are different – they are given to all people for all time
 - Why???

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

- We wonder, why don't people see their need for Christ? Why do people walk away from Jesus?

I think one of the reasons is because we do a disservice to the gospel of Jesus Christ when we say things like – Give your life to Christ, He will make your life better

- It has been such a good experience for me!

We are like the flight attendant I talked about the first night who had been told by the pilot, 3 of the 4 engines have failed and we are going down, get the parachutes out

- But that flight attendant, like many of us, we don't want to offend, we don't want to impose

So she says, hey, sorry to interrupt your in-flight movie, sorry to interrupt your diet coke drinking – but would anyone like a parachute

- see how good it looks on me, it should make your seat more comfortable
 - and most people are like, why is this person interrupting my movie
 - and the few who take one, realize right away, it doesn't make my seat more comfortable and they want to take it off

But if that flight attendant would have been honest with the people – We are going down

- but good news, we have a parachute, who wants one

- well then no one would care about the movie or their soda
- no – help me, give me the parachute

And so too when we in love, help people to see there is a standard, and you have fallen short and the wages of sin really is death

- but good news, there is a savior
 - The law doesn't save us, doesn't make us more acceptable to God
 - But when we understand it, it drives us to Christ

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ

- The Law shows us our duty to God and to our fellow man – this is how you love God and love people
 - And in a day and age where so many including Christians do whatever is right in their own eyes, because we have lost the standard
- We live in the age of Grace which I am thankful for, we could not be saved without grace
 - But we sometimes think well then it doesn't matter how I live, grace brother – no friend there is a standard

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ

#3 – The Law helps us Discover Christ

- You learn something about the Law giver from the laws

Some of the laws on the books in our city governments let us know that at one time someone making laws was dumb

- Let's visit the great state of Maine this week
 - Where it is illegal not, I repeat, illegal to not bring a shot gun to church in case of an American Indian attack – still on the books
 - It is illegal to step out of a plane in flight – (This is not an ordinance against skydiving, that is okay, you just can't step out of a plane without a parachute, just in case you wanted to
- And this one I love – after Jan 14th – you will be charged a fine for having your Christmas decorations still up
 - Praise the Lord
- We will look at other states as this series progresses

But those laws tell you something about the lawgivers

- well the 10 Commandments are the same
 - and what we primarily will discover about God from His law is that He is love

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” - I John 5:3

- As we keep His commandments
 - Not to save us, not to qualify us for His love
 - But just as we are directed in Christ - I experience His love for me
- And this is obviously true as we get to commandment number six...

“You shall not murder.” – Exodus 20:13

Well that one I have down, I can go to sleep right now, I am not a murderer

- Hey I believe as we examine this sixth commandment we will discover that some of us who think we are dirty are really not
 - And some who think this commandment doesn't apply to them may have to rethink that premise

What does this verse really mean?

- For this verse had been used for many things
 - Anti war demonstrations
 - **Being from California, I have seen it used for anti-forestry demonstration – you are killing the trees**
- Does it apply to war
 - Does it apply to building your house, mowing your lawn, stepping on a spider???

Well, just from the Hebrew word it is pretty clear off the bat – you shall not murder

- Murder is talking not simply about killing, He is talking about murder – which is different in definition and in context
 - There are things that this simply does not apply to

The word “murder” means the taking of human life without cause

- Human life – without a cause
 - What would be taking life with a cause?
 - Well I believe in war applies to this definition.

War – what do you mean???

- Listen - man had turned his back on God
 - we don't want the King of Peace ruling in our lives
 - And so war becomes part of human existence
- We see in Matthew 24, the further away we get from Jesus, war is the result – “nation shall rise against nation, kingdom against Kingdom – and there shall be war
 - Isaiah 2:4 says this will continue until the prince of peace comes and then we as mankind will study war no more

But now because cultures, people groups have turned their back on God, at times the people become so corrupt something must be done

- A great example of the Canaanites, totally wicked in Abraham's day, but God was graceful – for 400 years God gave them a chance to repent, as the children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt they grew worse – the things they would do to their own children, we can not speak about in a setting like this – God sees this, his heart breaks and he understands the most kind thing to do, for them, for their children is to eradicate them

So He commands Israel to go and destroy them completely – He ordains war

- Paul in [Romans 13:1-4](#) says

“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by

God. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good." – Romans 13:1-4 (New Living Translation)

- God gives governments authority to take life
 - And those who carry out those commands, God calls them His servants in the New Living Translation
 - In the New King James He calls them ministers
- God appoints ministers to bear the sword to keep the world in check from evil
 - God appoints it, God ordains it
 - Listen our leaders are not perfect, but God uses nations, even imperfect, evil some might say, to hold back greater evil, greater wrong
 - God is doing this to accomplish His will

What are you saying Jason – I am saying If You are a Veteran and you had to take life as your duty to this country, the enemy I'm sure is trying to rip you off – you have murdered!!!

- But I am saying the Word is really clear – you are not a violator of this commandment – you are actually according to scripture, a minister

There is coming a day when wars will be put away

- but until that day

God raises up powers, nations, albeit it imperfect to deal with nations, powers who are more evil to keep evil in check

- And those who are part of that design of God, though they may kill, are not murders

This applies to soldiers, it applies to those who meet out execution on the part of the state – capital punishment

- you are doing what God had ordained

“And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If anyone murders a fellow human, he must die. If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands.” – Genesis 9:5-6 (New Living Translation)

- God is ordaining – if you take a human life, your life must be taken, by human hands
 - Someone is ordained by God to take your life
 - Again it is to keep evil in check

You see before the flood, Cain kills Able – God graciously allows Cain to live

- What happens – evil continues and spreads
 - By the time his great, great, great grandson Lamech is on the scene he is killing people and justifying it – Gen 4

And so God destroys the world with a flood

- and afterward God speaks to Noah and says, we are not dealing with murder that way anymore
 - if a man takes a human life – His life will be required
 - God set up the system – those who uphold it, though they make be killing are not guilty of violating the sixth commandment

So if I understand what you are saying - You mean that those who are soldiers that take life to keep evil in check, those who order and execute capital punishment are not violators of the sixth commandment

- You mean it is like Jesus said, not simply killing but murder – something different in definition and context.
 - So who is guilty?
 - Well again the definition

“Murder” means the taking of human life without cause

- human life – green peace – this does not apply to deer or fish
- Without cause (Biblical cause) – by the way
 - it does not apply to war in most cases
 - it does not apply to capital punishment
- it does not apply to defending your family if someone breaks into your house - unless you live in California
 - but not to the Lord

So who is guilty – what does this commandment mean?

- well it certainly applies to those who take human life without cause
 - And of course this applies to life at any age, at any stage, murder applies to taking human life without a cause

However the reality is most of us and some still sitting here saying, well good, I told you this does not apply to me - I’m still good – well before we go, understand Jesus takes it even further

- That attitude of – this doesn’t apply to me – nothing to learn here reminds me of something

It was the attitude of the Pharisees in Matthew Chapter 5 - Jesus was teaching His disciples what it truly meant to be a disciple, a follower of God

- and for an example of what not to do, Jesus brings up the Pharisees

"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.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." – Matthew 5:21-24

- Jesus with His disciples is saying – hey if you are going to walk in my commandments – if you are going to experience all they mean to your life
 - You can’t get prideful with the sixth commandment – by saying “Well I never killed anyone
 - Great want a cookie – you can walk around with that pride in your heart
- But if you are harboring hate and bitterness in your heart then, Jesus ties that in with the sixth commandment and says – you are not walking in the love I intended for you
 - Not that hate is the same punishment as murder, but as a disciple it produces the same thing

Harboring hate and bitterness in my heart will produce a prison that I will be stuck in, it will produce a deadening of ministry and life that God intended me to walk in

I remember when I was at Calvary Chapel Vista this young man who was in our college and career group stopped coming to fellowship. About a year later he comes in the door and I say Hey Steve where have you been. After the service he tells me – I need you to forgive me, this whole year I haven't been to church because I have been bitter at you. "What did I do???" I totally feel when I came to church this next day you gave me this look like you were disgusted with me. "What???, Look I don't remember giving you a look, I don't sleep well Saturday nights, maybe it was a tired look, maybe my stomach hurt." "It doesn't matter, this whole year I would lie in bed at night and think about how mad I was at you, and then God told me to forgive you, so here I am." – Weird, please don't follow me home, I'm glad you don't own a weapon.

- God doesn't want you and I to live this way
 - It is not walking in His love, in His commandment
 - So what do we do

What do we do if we have violated this commandment?

- well if its physically – turn yourself in – you need to make things right
 - but if it is just hate in your heart – then you are not off the hook
- You also need to repent – get right with God, admit your sin and what it really was
 - I love the grace of God that says, I am not through with you
 - Repent – acknowledge

That is true of murder physically

- and it is equally true of harboring hate and bitterness
 - there must be repentance

But I have cause!!!! – You said 'without a cause' – my hate is justified – I have a cause – I was wronged!!! – I have a cause!!!!

- Do you???
 - Jesus told a story in Matthew 18 about a man who owed a ruler millions and millions of dollars and the ruler forgave that man his debt, well that man then went out and someone owed him thousands of dollars
- Now notice – thousands – a significant amount of money – if you owed me a thousand, I would want it back

But in the parable, the man who was forgiven millions came to the man who owned Him thousands and said "pay me what you owe"

- Well when it got back to the ears of the King, he said, wait a second
 - I have forgiven you so much, what cause do you have, what right do you have to demand so much
- And friends – Jesus spoke this parable, read it Matthew 18, in the context of forgiveness
 - You might have been wronged – someone really might owe you
 - But what have you been forgiven, how much has God passed over in your life
- That must, that needs to produce in me and you a willing to forgive
 - And notice – forgive quickly – get right

If someone has something against you

- put down your gift
 - put down your guitar, get off your stool, stop your painting

- and get it right
- that is the way God intended life to be
 - He has forgiven us, so that we might forgive

When my son was a tiny guy - he decided to climb up on the coffee table, which we had told multiple times not to do. Well not only did he climb up on the coffee table, but he decided to jump from the coffee table to the couch. Now what made things worse is the first jump was successful. Why that is a problem, is as much as my wife discouraged, exhorted the young guy from jumping again, the first time had been a blast. So the first opportunity mom was not in the room, my son decided to take it up a notch, to add to his jump a triple spin. Problem was, as a little guy that was too much - so Christy walked into the room to see Jonathan in flight, spinning, then missing the couch he was aiming for, landing about a foot lower, on his knees and then twisting of the ankle. He cried, but then the worst part – He limbed away from the couch and even hours later when I came home from work, “Da Da, as he began to run to me, only to hobble.”

And I will never forget that because not only was it sad seeing my son that way

- but God used it to deal with something in my heart
 - you see I was walking around with bitterness in my heart
 - and God had encouraged me to let it go – to forgive, to move on
- But I had my rights – I had a cause to be upset

And as I watched my son, the Lord just ministered to my heart

- your son had a cause
 - He had every reason to believe this would work out right
 - But He did not listen to the Word meant to show him love – and now he is hobbling through life
- And so will you Jason if you don't get this down – I will still love you, you are still saved – but your bitterness will hobble you!

And many of us I fear are walking around like my son this week – hobbling – because we say “I haven't killed – this doesn't apply to me”

- And yet we are harboring bitterness in our hearts
 - This is the love of God – that we keep His commandments
 - Don't be hobbled any longer – give this over to the Lord tonight!