

# *This is What the Heart Looks Like // #6 “You Shall Not Murder” // Exodus 20:13*

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## **N Raleigh: soft launch**

If you’re just joining us back from the summer, we’re in a series on the TC... you got here just in time for the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment, “Thou Shalt Not Murder,” which is probably pretty timely because some of you college students have just figured out that you don’t really like your new roommate... and this sermon may save you from some bad choices in the days to come... (good to have all you students back...)

Now, most of us tend to write this commandment off... We think: (glad it’s in there, I’m sure someone needs to hear it... but, I realize that it is wrong—and I’ve never really done that). But there’s a lot more to this commandment than you probably realize.

***The core of this commandment is an understanding of the value of human life and a commitment to preserve and protect it.***

**Obeying this commandment is about a lot more than just “not murdering.”** It’s about valuing the lives of others—realizing that people are precious—the most precious thing on earth; and loving them and leveraging your life to protect and prosper them.

- For example, James, Jesus’ half-brother, said that the command to not murder has everything to do with how we treat the poor;
- And the prophet Ezekiel and the Apostle Paul both said that they understood that if they didn’t carry the Gospel to the people God had sent them they would be guilty of a kind of murder.

Furthermore, Jesus explains that this commandment is really gets to how we feel about and think about people in our hearts.

- “Do you ever get so mad at people that you fantasize about their harm? If so, then your heart is guilty of murder.”
  - And, btw, it doesn’t even have to be physical harm! It could be a desire to humiliate them—put them in their place, tell them off.
    - ***Seinfeld fans? Remember that Seinfeld episode*** where George gets humiliated...? George is eating shrimp and the guy says, “Hey George, the ocean called and they said that they were running out of shrimp. Slow down a little.” George is humiliated. So, he spends the rest of the episode trying to plot how he can get the guy back... create a situation where the guy will say it to him again and George can say, “Well, the jerk called, and they’re running out of you.” ***That’s what I’m talking about.***
    - I’ve told you before that I do this just about any time I lose an argument... Whenever I lose an argument, I **always replay** it in my mind... **except in the replay** I always win the argument; I always **smack ‘em down** and put them in their place. I’m like, “*Oh, yeah... they say that, but then I say... Oh yeah, that would have been awesome.*” I’ve lost lots of arguments. I’ve never lost a rerun. That may seem harmless, but it is the core of a murderous spirit.

Here’s what I want to do: I want to show you how woefully short we fall of this commandment and how you and I, people in the church, may be living our lives in a way that God considers us guilty of murder.

So, I’m going to build a case for this and then show you how it applies to you. I want to warn you up front, this is going to be a little rough...

## Genesis 9:1–6

The commandment, “You shall not kill,” is **first** given in Genesis 9 right after God had destroyed the known world with a flood. There has been a huge disaster. Tons of people have died.

- Now, whenever there is a disaster of this magnitude (and so much human life is destroyed), there can be a de-sensitization of the preciousness of human life. (So much life is lost, we feel so small, and insignificant, like cosmic forces could wipe us out at any minute.)

So, immediately after getting off the ark, God reminds Noah of the preciousness of human life to Him. He says,

*[5] And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from his fellow man<sup>1</sup>... [6] “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. (Genesis 9:5-6 ESV)*

God says the price for taking life is life. If you take a life, you must pay with your life. There’s nothing on earth that you could use to pay for life.

- If God had said that the penalty for murder would be to give 5 million dollars to the family of the victims and then spend 50 years in prison, he would have put a price on life. But God doesn’t do that. He says that the only thing that equals the value of life is life.
- In other words, human life is priceless. There is no earthly equivalent to it.
  - (Now, btw, in case you’re reading that and you are getting hung up on the obvious reference to capital punishment here, and you got problem with that, because you wonder **how effective it is** in our day and age, or you **have problems with the inequity** with

which it is administered in our culture, don’t get hung up on that question here... b/c **the main point God is making here, and what you need to carry away from this passage, is that human life is priceless** and nothing on earth equals its value.

- Human life is precious; there is no equivalent, and it is never to be expended or exploited as a means to any other end.

**Now, why? Why is human life priceless?** Vs. 6 tells you. “...for God made man in his own image.”

- Human life is precious because we are made in God’s image.
- What’s that mean, that we look like God? No. To be in God’s image means that you reflect certain parts of Him.
  - Now, all of creation, to some extent, reflects the glory of God—Scripture says so, which means that there is something of God reflected in the waterfalls, the galaxies... even in the animals.
  - **But there is something unique in man that reflects God’s glory in a way that nothing else can.**
    - How well something reflects something else depends on what it is made of.
    - A mirror reflects an image better than water, and water reflects it better than a rock does.
    - When it comes to reflecting the image of God, men and women are like the mirrors of creation. They reflect God more clearly than anything else on earth can.
    - I was thinking about that this week... people talk about being moved to worship as they look at some majestic, natural display—a waterfall, galaxy—“Doesn’t that want to make you just praise God?” But wouldn’t it be kind of weird to say that about another human being? You’re looking at somebody at the mall and you say, “You, I mean, just you... you make me worship.”

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrew, lit., “your brother.”

(I just gave a lot of single guys a really fantastic, theologically-sound pick-up line.)

- But it's true. God's glory is revealed in us
  - Now, that doesn't mean I want you guys going home and getting out the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue and your wife comes in and says, "What are you doing?" and you're like, "just worshipping... *To God, be the Glory...*"
  - That's not what that means, for multiple reasons which I shouldn't need to go over...
- The point is this. Men and women are created in the image of God, and because of that they have incredible value and each human life is precious.

**Listen, this is key:** *When you think of men and women as anything less than the image of God, you devalue life.*

- And, listen: it's not surprising that this is something our enemy, whom the Bible says is a murderer from the beginning, is desperately trying to make us forget... through our educational system and through our science, he's trying to wipe out any vestige that we are made in the image of God—because when you do that, inevitably, life will be devalued. (It makes sense, right?
  - If it's true what the Bible says about Satan—one of the primary things it says is that he is a murderer—well then it makes sense that 1 of his primary strategies would be devaluing human life).
- Listen, part of the modern, moral, academic dilemma is that on 1 hand we want to celebrate and preserve life, but on the other we're trying to get our science and philosophy to prove there is nothing special about human life.
  - The English philosopher **G.K. Chesterton** said it great 70 years ago. I love this. He was talking about the

secular academic culture of England, and he said, "*As a politician, the secular man will cry out that war is a waste of life; yet as a philosopher, he admits that all life is a waste of time... A scientist goes to a political meeting where he complains that we're treating natives people like beasts, but then in his scientific meeting he proves that we are beasts. Therefore the modern skeptic has become useless for purposes of revolution. By rebelling against everything, including God, he has lost his right to rebel against anything.*"

**G.K. Chesterton**

- For example, the evolutionist will argue that we need to end human suffering. "But," here's the question you have to ask: "**Why? Why is human suffering a cosmic tragedy?**" Because if life is nothing but a random, cosmic accident, then the only reason our species is here because previous species of life underwent suffering and death to make room for us. So what is special or tragic about *our* pain?
  - Right? For you to say to me that human suffering is unjust while you chew on a turkey sandwich (which came to you through the death of an innocent turkey who'd never done anything to you) you have to show me why human death and pain is different from all other death in the universe.
  - You say, "Well, that's why I don't eat meat." Well, then explain that to the millions of innocent little microbes your body is killing right now to keep you healthy. "Well, that's different." Why? Why is it different? Maybe in the scheme of evolution, we're just the microbes that need to be eliminated for greater life.
- What is special, what is tragic, about human pain?

- The Bible gives an answer to that, and that is that we, human beings, are made in the image of God.
- Listen: Isn't there something inside of you that knows that is true?
  - Your college professor tells you that we are no different from animals; that we'll die and be eaten by worms and that's all there is in life... but, inside, instinctively, you know there is more to it than that.
  - We know humanity is different; we know the death of a human and the death of a plant are not the same thing.
  - I mean, **why else would we fear death like we do?** You know, animals are not afraid of death—they seem to fear pain, but not death. But we fear death itself. *Why?* If this world is all there is, then the most natural thing in the world is death! We fear death because we are made in the image of God and death of our souls is unnatural.
  - **Listen: or the fact that we desire things that seem to be beyond the grasp of this world...**
    - We long for eternal love, permanent security, everlasting life... C.S. Lewis asked a pretty brilliant question 1 time... "If I am standing in my kitchen and craving food, that doesn't prove there is food in that cupboard. The cupboard might be empty! But it does prove that there is such a thing as food." Because your body wouldn't crave something that had never existed.
    - He said, **"If I find in myself a desire which nothing in this world can satisfy, the best argument is that I was created for another world." C.S. Lewis**
  - Man is made in the image of God. That's the best explanation. Because he is made in the image of God, his life is precious.

### So, with that understanding, what's happening when we murder?

**We murder because we value something on earth more than we value the lives of others, and we have to kill them to get it.** There's something we need so badly that it matters more to us than someone else's life.

I started to make a list of all the cold-blooded murders recounted in the Bible... there's actually a lot of them... there are several recurring reasons why people murder:

- a) Greed: Someone has something somebody else wants, so they kill them to get their hands on it.
  - If you're familiar with the Bible, think Esau trying to kill Jacob because he wants his father's blessing and Jacob has it;<sup>2</sup>
  - Whole nations invade other nations to get their hands on their resources
- b) Jealousy: which is similar, but someone else has something you want and you want to kill them because they have it and you don't
  - Cain murders Abel because Abel has a blessing Cain wants
  - King Saul spends the last half of his life hunting David down like a dog because he's jealous of all the attention David is getting
- c) Fear: you think somebody might be able to take away something you don't want to lose
  - King David kills Uriah because David had slept with Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, and David's afraid that Uriah is going to find out and tell everybody and ruin his reputation, so David has him murdered and takes Bathsheba for his own wife. (You got to admit... that was a raw deal for Uriah... I mean, we know David went to heaven, but I imagine Uriah had a few words for David when he got there, don't you? I think St. Peter probably met David at the gate and said, "Before

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<sup>2</sup> Cf., Ahab and Naboth

you come into heaven, where there's no violence, if you could just step into this steel framed octagon for a minute b/c I think Uriah wants to talk to you, for about 3 rounds or so)...

- Or, think Hitler killing all the Jews because he was afraid they'd take over (not in the Bible)
- d) Or personal vengeance: somebody ticks you off and the only thing you think can satisfy you is their death
  - Absalom kills his brother for violating his step-sister
  - Jack Bauer takes on the whole world for deep personal reasons no one, really understands except us wounded warriors

The common thread in all these cases is that somebody values something more than they value the life of someone else... (I told you that all the commandments ultimately go back to idolatry. Idolatry is needing something so badly that you feel like you can't go on living without it... and you're willing to do anything to get it. Murder, like all sins, begins in idolatry. You're not satisfied with your place in life, and so you take the powers of life and death in your hands.

Now, most of you are like, "Well, yeah... ok; I'm still good; I've never killed for any of those reasons." OK, hang on a minute. I want to show you how this applies to you a lot more than you think it does. But, before I do, **real quick... let me tell you what is not included in this commandment...** just because so many of you ask me so many questions about this... **Here's what is not included in that commandment** (if I didn't talk about this):

**(a) Self-defense (Exodus 22:2)**

**(b) Lethal force by police and capital punishment** are not necessarily murder **(Exodus 22:3; Gen 9:1-6; Romans 13:1-4;)**

- A lot of times Christian policemen want to know, "Is it OK that I carry a gun, and what if I have to use it?"

Should I be given out little Bibles instead? Should I be stun-gunning myself?" No, Scripture says that God ordains human governments and their use of deadly force to protect as a way of protecting life.

- In the same way, capital punishment is presented in Scripture not as an assault on the image of God, but as a defense of an assault on image of God.
  - I'm not trying to open up a whole can of worms here... and I'm not commenting here about the justice or efficiency of the American system, simply saying that the Old and New Testament both recognize that a government is given the right to justly punish a murderer
  - If they misuse that authority, they'll answer to God for it, but governments and police-forces that carry weapons are God-ordained institutions. *(The Apostle Paul says that He did this as an act of mercy to us, so that on earth the preciousness of life could be preserved.)*

In the same way,

**(c) Just war is not murder (Romans 13:1-4)**

- Many wars, in fact, most wars are murderous and unjust. Even some of those fought by our country.
- But, that said, some wars can be necessary to protect innocent life. And if wars are conducted for that reason, then the Bible would not label the actions of the soldiers as "murder."
- Now, again, I'm not addressing which American wars qualify as just wars, and I don't have time to unpack the whole biblical idea of just war, just to say that there are cases where the most loving, life-protecting thing you can do is go to war.

- **These 3 things are not included in the commandment not to murder.** The command here is referring to a specific type of killing... the taking of innocent life.

Let me tell you what is included:

- Abortion: Let me tell you why abortion would be considered by God to be included in this commandment: Simply, because it is the taking of innocent human life
  - The baby in the womb is human life. Human life is not arrived at in stages. You're not more human when your mind is fully developed than you were when it was less so. (You're not more human when you graduate from college than you are in 1<sup>st</sup> grade.)
  - **People try to say, "Well, the fetus is not really human life yet."** I always say...Well, then what kind of *life* is it? If it's not human life...
  - **Plus, even if you are unsure about it, why would you take a chance and maybe murder it?** If I am standing in a room and I think my kids "might" be behind that door over there... I'm not sure, I don't shoot a rifle into it to find out. If there's any chance there is precious human life behind that door, I err on the side of life.
    - There was an article that came out this summer in the *London Times* named "Abortion is the Lesser Evil." The author, Antonia Senior, said, **"Yes, the unborn fetus at any stage is fully human life."** (She used to argue, she said, that the unborn baby was less than human life, but then she had her own baby, and acknowledged that that argument didn't make any sense)... But she then proceeds, in this article, to argue that the cause of feminism is more important than life, and that killing unborn human children is less evil than depriving women of the right to choose. Now, to be honest, that is more logical than the case I usually hear made on our University campuses (that the baby at 5 months is

not really human but somehow, magically, at 9 months it is) but it's scary, because it is an outright assertion that some societal agendas are so important enough that we should be willing to kill even the innocent for it.<sup>3</sup>

- A woman's right to choose is precious; but protecting human life is the most precious thing on earth. \
- "I've had an abortion"... not trying to condemn you. There is forgiveness... I'm speaking now to our culture. We must care for the weak, the elderly. The strong cannot exploit the weak for their purposes just because they have no voice.

***That's what I think Scripture teaches this commandment entails... if some of you disagree, I'd invite you to study the Scripture with an open mind and come up with your own conclusions...***

Now, with the rest of my time I want to get at the heart of this commandment and show you how we violate it a lot more than we think we do. I'll call this section, **"Murder and You": 4 principles**

The 1<sup>st</sup> 2 come out of... **Matthew 5:21–22 [21] "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' [22] But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment... (ESV)**

**1. *Having anger toward others that desires their physical harm is a murderous spirit (Matt 5:21).***

- Jesus said that what God looks at is the heart, not the behavior. There may be 1000 reasons you don't act on your desires, but your desires are what matter. You say, "Well, why does it matter what I want as long as I don't do it?" Because your desires are the real you. If you desire one thing but force

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.albertmohler.com/2010/07/01/when-feminism-kills-abortion-as-the-lesser-evil/>. A. Senior: "If you are willing to die for a cause, you must be prepared to kill for it, too."

yourself to do another, then what you want is really who you are.

- When you desire someone's harm, you are guilty of murder.
- I've confessed to you...
  - Throughout my life, whenever someone was above me, I delighted when they failed... I've even delighted when guys in ministry whom I was jealous of either got criticized, or fell into immorality... because that brought them down.
  - That's a murderous spirit, and it all starts in the heart...

*Let me ask you a few questions*

- Do you have a list of people in your head that you wish would just disappear or get out of your life? Murder
- Who is it that you'd love to see fall flat on their face and humiliated?
- Do you ever fantasize about telling people off?
- Who do you gossip about with your best friends? (In the South, we feel like we say anything about anybody, as long as we follow it with "bless his heart." He is a raging idiot... bless his heart.) Your words indicate a heart of murder. (Jesus said, "By your words you are condemned." If we put a tape recorder on your neck and just recorded how you talked about people, what kind of heart would that indicate)
- Do you have a girl you wish would just inexplicably gain 30 lbs?
- Do you have fits of rage against others that are unseen by most people? Do you enjoy playing Grand Theft Auto a little too much?

These are all the evidences of a murderous spirit... you may never act on it, but the poison is in there... the cancer of this wickedness is in your soul...

2<sup>nd</sup> principle: **Matthew 5:22** "...and whoever insults his brother... or says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the fires of hell."

## 2. **Thinking of people as anything less than the special image of God that they are is a type of murder (Matt 5:22).**

- This is pretty significant. He says when you insult others, call them a "fool," you're guilty of murder.
  - Honestly, I never could figure out why He said that... why insulting someone or calling them a "fool" equated murder. But here's why: when you insult someone and call them a derogatory or diminutive name, you are not recognizing them as the special creation of God that they are. You're thinking of them as something "less" than the image of God and that is the beginnings of a murderous spirit.<sup>4</sup>
  - Just finished a great book called *Hunting Eichmann...* **TELL STORY** Adolf Eichmann was not a bad guy; had a fairly good relationship with his kids; decent husband; in fact, when the Jewish commandos finally captured him and were holding him, they had a hard time hating him because they were expecting a monster but he was a normal guy! It's just that he had a hatred for Jews and devalued them to the point that they weren't individuals... that led to the worst atrocities ever known.
  - When you think of someone as other than a special creation of God, that is the beginning of the murderous spirit.
  - So, question for you: Who is it that you think of more as a group, a group you don't particularly like, rather than as individuals made in the image of God...
    - A certain race... "the Arabs, "the blacks," "the whites," "the Mexicans." You say, "but they are Arabs." Yes, but you're not thinking of them as individuals made in the image of God with the

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<sup>4</sup> When God had told them in Genesis 9 not to murder he said, "It's your brother." In other words, he's just like you, made out of the same stuff you are."

same wants, hurts, and needs that you have; **who love their kids just like you do and who are loved by their kids just like you are**; who feel pain and loneliness just like you do; and whose lives are every bit as precious as yours is.

- Maybe it is “the Muslims” or “the illegal immigrants,” or, “the religious right,” or “Carolina Fans.” You don’t think of them as individuals like you, made in the image of God, but you think of them more as a derogatory classification.
- Joseph Stalin (who I usually don’t quote in sermons) said, “The death of 1 is a tragedy; the death of a million is a statistic...”
  - When you are confronted with an individual you see in them someone like you. When you think of people in terms of statistics or categories, you often forget that they are every bit as much in the image of God as you are.
  - **When I say, “the homosexual community in the Triangle,”** what many of you hear is a political grouping that you are afraid of... many of you think about them with scorn and disrespect and even hate... these are men and women just like you with the same wants, hurts, and needs as you have; who are every bit as precious in God’s sight and whom God loves every bit just as much as He loves you, who once were someone’s child, and for whom being separated from God and going to hell is every bit the tragedy it would be for you.
  - **The church is guilty of this...** not that we shouldn’t speak truth, but we classify and we hate and we forget these are individuals who are precious to God.

Let’s keep going:

### 3. **Turning a deaf ear to the sufferings of the poor while living in luxury is murder (James 5:1, 5)**

This is what James, Jesus’ half-brother, said:

*[5:1] You rich... Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you... [5] You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. (James 5:1, 5 ESV)<sup>5</sup>*

He’s talking about people who turned a deaf ear to those in need... and went on about pursuing the American dream... piling up stuff, totally oblivious to the cries for help from people all around them.

You say, “Well, why is this murder? I didn’t do anything to them.” Why am I responsible? Am I my brother’s keeper?

Remember the whole commandment to not murder is built upon the preciousness of human life. James is saying that these rich considered their convenience to be more important than the lives of the poor.

- Stats: 50,000 people died last week of AIDS. 100,000 children died of hunger related diseases in addition to thousands trafficked around the world for sexual exploitation... these are individuals, kids, just like yours, who are as precious to God as yours are to you.
- Hundreds of foster kids in the Triangle that need homes... and without that type of loving home there’s not much chance they are going to grow up to thrive and reach their God-given potential.
- Summit... HOPUD. We have to! God didn’t give us what He gave us for us to create a luxury club for Christians.

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<sup>5</sup> Cf. Jer 2:34

- We cannot say we are disciples of Christ and turn a deaf ear to the poor. James says if we just put our heads in the sand and ignore them we are murdering them.<sup>6</sup>
- Are we our brother's keeper? Yes. His life must be precious to us.

And notice, James here is not just talking about given away money... James here is talking about good, equitable, community-benefiting business practices. Running businesses in a way that bless the community. Businesses that take their profits and re-invest it in the people.

He's not saying there is a problem with being good at business or even growing wealthy; he says there is a problem with hoarding your wealth and pretending it is all about you.

#### Question:

- What are you most pursuing in your career? Is it personal acquisition? Leveraging your gifts to get as much income as you can to live at the level you've always wanted? Or is the goal leveraging your gifts to bless and preserve human life?
- College students: What career are you going into and why? Is this all about you? Or have you thought about how what you do will bless the world? How you can bless human life and preserve it?
- Not saying everyone should go into ministry... just, is this about you, or the K of God?

#### 4. **Not giving the Gospel to those to whom God has sent you is a type of murder (Ezek 33:6-8)** Look at this... God is comparing Ezekiel to a watchman...

*[8] If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way,*

*that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. (Ezekiel 33:8 ESV)*

- I say 1.8 billion... does that do anything to you?
- Will of God? Not lost
- Acts 20:26
- That is not a stat... they are individuals, just like me & you.
  - When I knew God was calling me... thought about leaving family... other boys and girls...

**Here's my question for some of us:** Do we really believe the Gospel? If so, how do you reconcile that with how you live, how little you give, how little urgency you have in taking Christ to others? I mean you don't give sacrificially; you don't ever go on mission trips; you don't want your kids to go; you don't have any sense of urgency in telling others the Gospel, you spend all your money on yourself... and yet we say we believe the Gospel? How do we not have blood on our hands?

#### Rhonda

Not trying to beat you up... helping you realize that this is reality. **Romans 9:1-3?**

- Some of you talk about having a passion to relieve suffering... what about relieving eternal suffering?
- We talk about finding God's will...
- *If we fail to carry the Gospel to those whom God has sent us, we have blood on our hands*

The major point: Human life is precious and there is nothing on earth we ought to pursue more than that.

What are you pursuing? What are you leveraging your life for? **Some of you probably started this sermon thinking you were pretty good with this commandment**, and by now you probably realize your soul is completely streaked with the stain of this commandment. Who

<sup>6</sup> See Calvin's *Institutes*, 2.8.9.

can say they have never desired to harm someone else? Who has never thought of someone else as less than the image of God they are? Who has properly valued the lives of others and lived loving others like you would want to be loved? No one. We are, in God's eyes, murderers, and Jesus says we are in danger of judgment.

So let me make sure you all understand the Gospel: Jesus is the only One who ever fully obeyed this commandment. But even though He lived a perfect life of love, He was executed, given the death penalty. Why? The Bible says He was suffering our death penalty. Free gift. You're not saved by...

Here's the irony. Never was our murder more on display than when we crucified Him.

- "But I didn't do that."
- His murder, rather than crying out for our vengeance, cried out for our salvation
- Hebrew idiom, "blood cries out" His cries out for our salvation
- To all who will receive that

Here's what happens... when you realize that you were one who was rescued, your hearts will start to change. Not just your behavior. Romans 9, he went to hell for you. Rather than having a heart that just wants to use people and take from them and exploit them and punish them, you'll find that you want to love and serve and forgive them the way that Jesus loved, served, and forgave you.

Jesus fulfilled the commandment. He lived it perfectly and died the penalty for where we broke it, so He gives us forgiveness, and as the one who gave His life to rescue us, He changes our hearts so that instead of being exploitative, hateful murderous people, we become loving, sacrificial ones. You live for others as He lived for you.

Now, one last question: Some of you have had it since the beginning when I brought up the flood: If God is so into human life, why doesn't

he stop all suffering? Why the flood? And, hell? If human life is precious, how did hell ever enter into God's mind?

I want you to realize that human life *is* precious to God, and hell was not made for us. Sin demands a penalty. Jesus took it for you. You must choose, He won't force it.

# Bullpen:

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. ~~(There is a statement found in the Bible when someone is murdered, "Their blood cried out from the ground for vengeance." Jesus' blood cried out from the ground, but not for our death, but for our forgiveness.)~~

The taking of innocent human life

Anger toward others that desires their harm for personal benefit

Failing to protect and preserve human life

Gen 9:6:

- no price set on human life
- All of creation, in some degree, reflects his glory. The waterfalls, mountains, and animals reflect part of God's glory. But people are like mirrors that reflect God's glory. There is something about us that can reflect God's glory in a peculiar way that no other created thing can.
- The physical, chemical structure and substance of something affects how well it reflects. A mirror is better than water which is better than a rock.
- BTW, realizing that you are created in the image of God will answer a lot of your questions...
  - Why are our desires insatiable? Why do we have higher standards than any animal or tree? Why are we so unhappy? Why do we hate death so much? (If this world is all there is, then there is nothing more natural than death.) Animals do not fear death – they fear pain. But death is perfectly natural.

- As mirrors, we were made to face towards God. The reason we are so unsatisfied is because we are not facing and reflecting God. We are mirrors and we are reflecting something. What are you reflecting?
- A lot of modern thought tries to devalue human life... G.K. Chesterton, referring to atheists, *"As a politician, he will cry out that war is a waste of life; yet as a philosopher, he admits that all life is a waste of time. A Russian philosopher denounces a policeman for killing a peasant, but in his philosophical writings proves that the peasant should have killed himself. A scientist goes to a political meeting where he complains that we're treating natives people like beasts, but then in his scientific meeting he proves that we are beasts. Therefore the modern rebel [skeptical] has become useless for purposes of revolution. By rebelling against everything, including God, he has lost his right to rebel against anything."*
- C.S. Lewis, weight of glory, *It's a serious thing to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may someday be a creature which if you saw it now you would be strongly tempted to worship; or else a horror and a corruption so as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is with a sense of awe that we should engage any other human being... There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.*

The murderous spirit... How Jesus redefines it

- Why we murder
- Wounded; DeYoung's questions...
- Cain and Abel;
- David and Saul: preserving life vs. taking it

How we preserve life vs. take it

- Caring for the poor;
- Going for the lost

- Abortion. Not trying to be political. Any action that might be killing a human being has to be off-limits. Unless you are absolutely, totally, 100% that a fetus is no different than a tadpole, then you ought to be against abortion.

Our enemy works in and through our educational system to try tell us we are just a cosmic, biological accident... nothing special about human life. The Bible says that our enemy has been a murderer from the beginning.

If evolution is all there is, then how do you say something is “unjust?” To say something is unjust means that you are appealing to a higher vision of the how it ought to be. (For example, MLK said that current racist laws in America were unjust because they conflicted with a higher law. He declared the current situation unjust by appealing to a higher vision, a higher law, of how it should be. Even though the majority of Americans were not behind him when he started, and even though the current laws did not support them, he said that US laws were unjust because they violated the higher law of God.) For you to say that something is unjust, you have to appeal to a higher vision of how it should be.

- What is truly *evil* (not inconvenient, but evil) about the strong in our society dominating the weak?
  - Do you follow that? When you say something is evil, or unjust, it is because you have to assume that it is not the way it is supposed to be. That’s evil; it’s not right, it’s not the way it is supposed to be. (For example, MLK said that certain laws in America as pertained to race were unjust. In so doing, he contradicted not only the law of the land, but also the opinions of a majority of Americans. So what was his basis? A higher law. He said that current US laws on race were unjust because they violated the higher law of

God.) When you say something is evil, you appeal to a higher vision of how it is supposed to be. Otherwise, all you can do is it is inconvenient, or not beneficial to you.

- \\ Paul said in Acts 20:26, “I am free from the blood of all men.” Not that “I never missed an opportunity to preach” or that “I always preached 100% correctly, but I obeyed God’s call on my life and did not willfully or lazily hold back the message from anyone.
- How can we really say we believe the Gospel, that Jesus is the only hope, if we are not giving our lives to take it to those who haven’t heard?

There was an article that came out this summer in the *London Times* named “Abortion is the Lesser Evil.” The author, Antonia Senior, said, “Yes, the unborn fetus at any stage is fully human life.” (She used to argue, she said, that the unborn baby was less than human life, but then she had her own baby, and acknowledged that that argument didn’t make any sense)... But she then proceeds, in this article, to argue that the cause of feminism is more important than life, and that killing unborn human children is less evil than depriving women of the right to choose. Now, to be honest, that is more logical than the case I usually hear made on our University campuses (that the baby at 5 months is not really human but somehow, magically, at 9 months it is) but it’s scary, because it is an outright assertion that some societal agendas are so important enough that we should be willing to kill even the innocent for it.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.albertmohler.com/2010/07/01/when-feminism-kills-abortion-as-the-lesser-evil/>. “If you are willing to die for a cause, you must be prepared to kill for it, too.”