Exodus: Shemot or Names



The Sixth Commandment Exodus 20:13

Rabbi and Student – Konstanty Szewczenko

Introduction

Previously in Exodus:

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- After seeing how Moses led the people out of Egypt, we've stopped with the nation at Sinai.
- We've been looking at the Ten Commandments one at a time.

What to expect in Exodus 20:13:

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What to expect in Exodus 20:13:

- The Sixth Commandment is the one against murder.
- We will look at what it means, and the various ways we ought to apply it.

The Truth of God's Word

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Psalm 119:157-160 (NKJV)

157 Many are my persecutors and my enemies,

Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies.

158 I see the treacherous, and am disgusted,

Because they do not keep Your word.

The Truth of God's Word

Psalm 119:157-160 (NKJV)

159 Consider how I love Your precepts;

Revive me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness.

160 The entirety of Your word is truth,

And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

The Text



Here is what the verse says,

You shall not murder.*

*The Hebrew word also covers causing human death through carelessness or negligence (ESV Footnote)

The Text



Message Outline



- I. The Meaning of the Text
- II. The Sanctity of Life
- III. From Hatred to Love
- IV. Loving Others

Message Outline





- Murder is forbidden:
- Hebrew has at least six primary words (plus variations) that refer to killing.



- Murder is forbidden:
- This command prohibits the unjust taking of human life – whether intentional or negligent.



- From the Topical Lexicon:
- It denotes the act of taking human life wrongfully.
- Scripture consistently treats it as a moral violation that incurs guilt before God, whether perpetrated deliberately or through reckless negligence.



 Murder is not judicial punishment which upholds God's justice.



Leviticus 24:17

Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death.

- The first half refers to murder.
- The second half is capital punishment for murder.



- Murder is not killing in selfdefense.
- Exodus 22:2-3

2 If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, 3 but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him ...



- Murder is not killing in selfdefense.
- Exodus 22:2-3

... He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.



- Murder is not killing in a Godordained battle.
- .Joshua 8:1-2



- I. The Meaning of the Text
- Murder isn't accidental death, which God treats with mercy.
- Let's turn to

Deuteronomy 19:4-6



 The Bible does, however, recognize something we might call criminal negligence.



Exodus 21:28-29

28 When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable ...



• Exodus 21:28-29

... 29 But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death.



 Murder is first and foremost the intentional and unjust killing of another human being.



• Exodus 21:12-14

¹² Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. ¹³ But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee ...



• Exodus 21:12-14

... ¹⁴ But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.



- Murder is a serious violation of God's law, but not all killing is murder.
- Murder, when it did happen under God's law, was to be taken seriously.



Numbers 35:30

If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness ...



Numbers 35:30-31

... 31 Moreover, you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer, who is guilty of death, but he shall be put to death.



- The requirement of two witnesses reminds us that even the life of the alleged murderer was sacred.
- And that brings us to our next section.



II. The Sanctity of Life

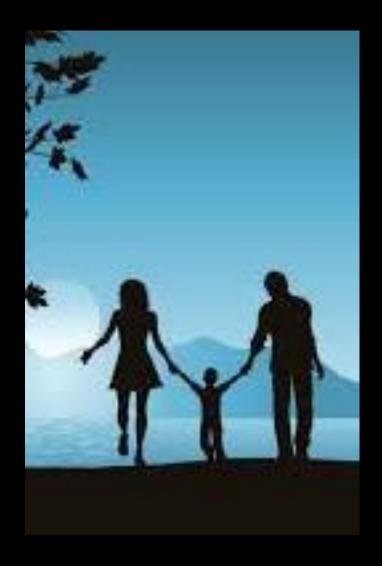


II. The Sanctity of Life



 After the flood subsided, God gave Noah the reason why human life was to be considered sacred.

II. The Sanctity of Life

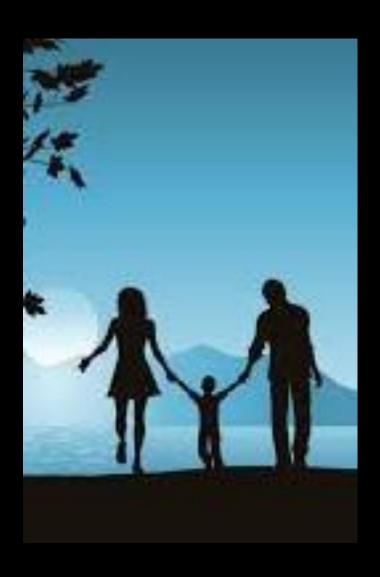


Genesis 9:6

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image



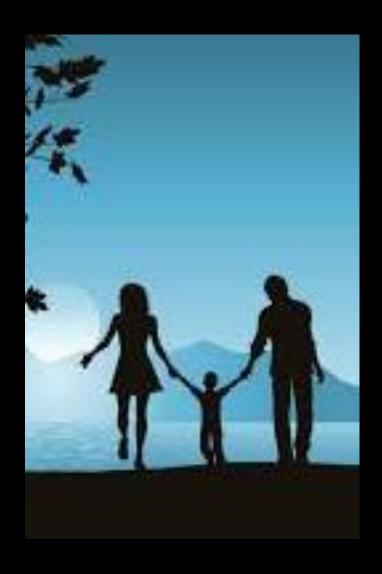
• The Sixth Commandment – which came over 1000 years after Noah, still reflects God's value for His image in each person.



- Further, the Bible indicates that human life is sacred, from the womb to the grave.
- Let's read Psalm 139:13-16.



- A related point is that God demanded a just punishment for each crime.
- Punishment was to be fair, not excessive.



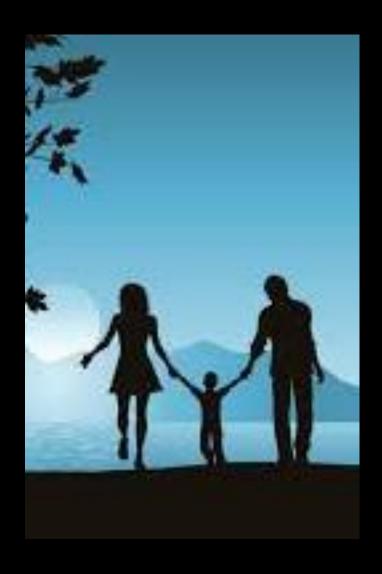
Leviticus 24:17-21

17 Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death. 18 Whoever takes an animal's life shall make it good, life for life. 19 If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done it shall be done to him, ...



Leviticus 24:17-21

... 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him. 21 Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, and whoever kills a person shall be put to death.



- While God gave the death penalty for certain crimes, including murder, He did not authorize it for every crime.
- Punishments were meant to be fair.
- But punishment is not God's only concern.



- For His followers, Jesus asks us to go a step further.
- He digs down to the root of murder, telling us we need to deal with our anger toward a brother.



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 ...



Matthew 5:21-22

... whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.



- Paul elaborates,
- Ephesians 4:31-32

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



- John too chimes in,
- 1 John 3:14-15

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.



- Jesus modeled the transformation from hatred to love by praying for His enemies' forgiveness.
- He showed us how to fulfill the Sixth Commandment with a heart of love.



• Luke 23:33-34

33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

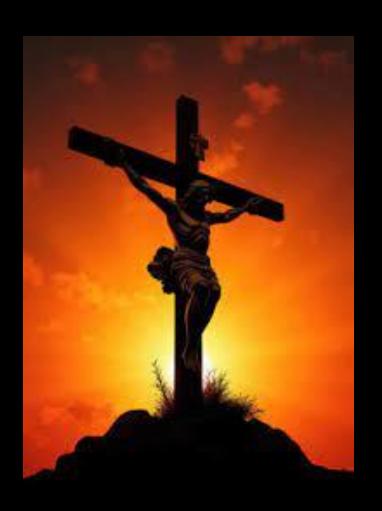
34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.



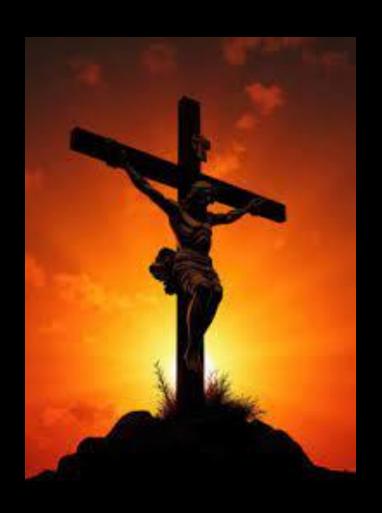
• Jesus lets us see what it means to love others – even enemies.







• Loving others starts with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



• John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.



• 1 John 4:20-21

20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he 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: whoever loves God must also love his brother.



• But love goes beyond those in the church to others all around us.



• Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.



- In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), Jesus defines "neighbor" as anyone in need.
- He teaches us to show love through compassionate action, even across cultural divides.



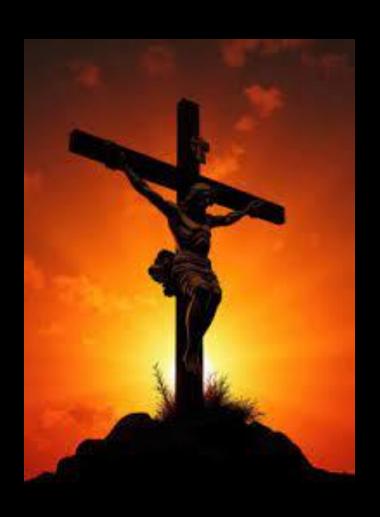
- And then Jesus takes it further still.
- Matthew 5:44-45

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is 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.



- And Paul says much the same.
- Romans 12:19-21

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; ...



- And Paul says much the same.
- Romans 12:19-21

... if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Sixth Commandment Exodus 20:13

Conclusions



The Sixth Commandment Exodus 20:13

As we know, it is by loving enemies that God reconciled Himself to us in Jesus Christ.

Let's read Romans 5:6-11.

Conclusions

