

Torah Studies

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



The Sixth Commandment Exodus 20:13

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The Sixth Commandment

Exodus 20:13

Introduction

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Previously in Exodus:

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Previously in Exodus:

- 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.

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Introduction

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.

Torah Studies

The Truth of God's Word

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The Truth of God's Word

- 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.

Torah Studies

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 Sixth Commandment

Exodus 20:13

The Text



The Sixth Commandment

Exodus 20:13

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 Sixth Commandment

Exodus 20:13

Message Outline



The Sixth Commandment

Exodus 20:13

Message Outline

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



I. The Meaning of the Text



I. The Meaning of the Text

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



I. The Meaning of the Text

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



I. The Meaning of the Text

- 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.*



I. The Meaning of the Text

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



I. The Meaning of the Text

- **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.



I. The Meaning of the Text

- Murder is not killing in self-defense.
- 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 ...



I. The Meaning of the Text

- Murder is not killing in self-defense.

- Exodus 22:2-3

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



I. The Meaning of the Text

- Murder is not killing in a God-ordained 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



I. The Meaning of the Text

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



I. The Meaning of the Text

- 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 ...



I. The Meaning of the Text

- 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.



I. The Meaning of the Text

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



I. The Meaning of the Text

- 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 ...



I. The Meaning of the Text

- 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.



I. The Meaning of the Text

- 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.



I. The Meaning of the Text

- **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 ...



I. The Meaning of the Text

- **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.



I. The Meaning of the Text

- 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

II. The Sanctity of Life



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

II. The Sanctity of Life



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

II. The Sanctity of Life



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

II. The Sanctity of Life



- **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, ...

II. The Sanctity of Life



- **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.

II. The Sanctity of Life



- 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.

III. From Hatred to Love



III. From Hatred to Love

- 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.



III. From Hatred to Love

- **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 ...



III. From Hatred to Love

- **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.



III. From Hatred to Love

- 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.



III. From Hatred to Love

- 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.



III. From Hatred to Love

- 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.



III. From Hatred to 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.



III. From Hatred to Love

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



IV. Loving Others



IV. Loving Others



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

IV. Loving Others



- 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.

IV. Loving Others



- **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.

IV. Loving Others



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

IV. Loving Others



- **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.

IV. Loving Others



- 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.

IV. Loving Others



- 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.

IV. Loving Others



- 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; ...

IV. Loving Others



- 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

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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

