

“THOU SHALT NOT ~~KILL~~?” MURDER!

What Are the Worst Sins?

taken from
Matthew 5:17–21



Buddy Dano, Pastor

Divine Viewpoint

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THOU SHALT NOT KILL! MURDER!

Tonight we're in Matthew 5:17 and following. "Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets; I am, not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say, unto you, Till Heaven, and Earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

Matthew 5:17, "I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." The word "fulfill" is an interesting word. It appears quite a bit in the New Testament, PLEROO. It's a very important word. It has a couple of connotations. The word has emphasis on quality, it has an emphasis to totally possess, it has an emphasis to fill up a deficiency, it has an emphasis to influence. Four different things that this verb connotes: to fill up with a specific quality, to fully possess, to fill up a deficiency, and to fully influence.

"To fulfill" is an aorist tense. An aorist tense is a point of time divorced from time and perpetuated forever. This is a once and for all aorist tense. In other words, the Law will be fulfilled in two ways the Lord is saying. One, by His life, which was 30 years of living on this Earth, and secondly, by His death. This aorist tense then looks at it in the concept of one package, a once and for all fulfillment. In other words, the life of the Lord Jesus Christ fulfills Codex #1, which says that the world is sinful and in need of a Saviour. For 1,000's and 1,000's of years the Mosaic Law was designed and people were waiting for someone to come and fulfill it. Along comes the Lord Jesus Christ and He fulfills the Law and He

lived a perfect life. By living 33 years of a perfect life He fulfills Codex #1, saying that the world is in need of a Saviour.

Then He fulfills Codex #2 at the Cross, which is the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Mosaic Law had been describing the Lamb which would take away the sins of the world. The Scripture says that "Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us," and is also spoken of in the priesthood concept and the tabernacle. The active voice here says that Jesus Christ did the work in fulfilling the Law. He did it by living a perfect life all by Himself. He laid down His life at the Cross, and He did it.

The infinitive (of the aorist, active, infinitive) speaks of purpose. In other words, Jesus Christ was designed to fulfill the ceremonial law. He rose again and ascended and is seated at the right hand of the Father. When you add to that the scattering of Israel, then this brings in the point that the Mosaic Law is abrogated, and Israel is without portfolio today. They have no priests and they have no temple. So, the Mosaic Law for us today is as follows: Codex #1 is to prove to the sinner that he is a sinner and he needs a Saviour. Codex #2 is the way of teaching the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour. Codex #3 is the principle for anyone living in the human race.

In verse 18 we have the passing of the Law. He says, "For verily I say unto you," present tense. "Verily" in front of the words "I say" is an idiom that means "this is for the record." Since this is the Word of God, then this is a permanent record. "This is for the record, till Heaven and Earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled." He said that He didn't come to destroy it. He came to fulfill it, but He fulfilled it to the letter of the Law. So, when He did, the Law was no longer in effect.

Now, I want you to notice, "Verily I say unto you." "Unto you" is dative of advantage. It's always to your advantage to know any part of the Word of God. "Heaven and Earth" refer to the universe in its present state. "Pass" means to depart. Then he says "Not one jot." "Jot," here refers to a Hebrew letter. It's the smallest of all Hebrew letters. There are 22 of them. The word "jot" is the word YOD. That's how it is in the Hebrew language. The Greek is IOTA. There's the Hebrew and the Greek. The IOTA is the smallest Greek letter, a Greek vowel, rather, which is naturally used to represent the Greek. YOD is the smallest Hebrew letter. Matthew is now even using the smallest letter in the Law. This is what the YOD looks like: '). You can easily miss it. It's like almost the corner of a curve. This is enlarged quite a bit the way it is shown here. It's very difficult to see. That's the word used here for JOT.

The next word, "tittle" comes from the Latin word which means a stroke. It is a Latin word describing another Hebrew letter, which is VAV, which is pronounced wow. This looks like this: ' . It's a little larger. So, here is your YOD and your VAV. The "v's" are pronounced like "w's." The Greek word is KEREIA, which means a little horn. It's the mere point of the horn. So, either one of these is so small that it is possible that either one could be omitted when you're writing a Hebrew word.

So, He says "One YOD or one VAV shall in no wise pass from," ultimate source, "of the Law until all be fulfilled." We have studied something about the Hebrew language and we'll take it up when we get to Jeremiah. But everyone of these letters of the alphabet has some particular meaning. For example, the word YOD is a hand actually in the Hebrew language, and it is the principle of security. You know, the concept like He holds us in His hand and no one can ever take us out of His hand. So, whenever you see that at the start of a sentence, you know that the sentence is going to be something about security.

The other word, VAV, is a nail or a peg. The nail or the peg means something that you can hang something on. You know, it's like a promise. You can put your trust there. Or

hang your hat on it, as it were. So, these words are used this way.

So He says "Not one YOD or one VAV shall in no wise pass of the Law till all be fulfilled." Well, when was the Law fulfilled? At the Cross! The Law was completely fulfilled. So, Jesus Christ is saying "Don't take away any jot or tittle out of the Law, till all are fulfilled."

This verse says that the disciples are going to live by the Law in the "crash program." In fact, He's going to teach them something about the Law and the mental attitude. Then, in verse 18 He uses the word "fulfill" again, which is an aorist, active, subjunctive. But, this time the word isn't PLEROO. It's not the word "fulfilled," but is the word GINOMAI. GINOMAI doesn't mean to fulfill, but it does mean to come to pass. It means to become something it wasn't before. So, GINOMAI means something you were not before. Well, what was the Law during the Old Testament times? Hebrews 10:1 says that the Law was a shadow of good things to come. All the time that the Law was in operation it was a shadow. Why a shadow? **Because it had no reality.** A shadow has no substance.

For example, in the Mosaic Law, Codex #2, they took a lamb and cut the lamb's throat and they sprinkled the blood on the altar. That was a shadow. The lamb was actually representing the reality, which was Jesus Christ. The Law was great and the Law was marvelous. It fulfilled a job in the Old Testament. But it was a shadow and **Christ was the reality.** Once Jesus Christ comes, then good-bye Law. So, the principle here on the verb GINOMAI means to become something it wasn't. The Law was never fulfilled until Christ came. It means to become a reality.

This is an aorist tense, which recognizes the Cross and the 33 years which preceded it. The active voice says that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law. Christ made the Law something which it wasn't before. The Law was always a shadow and Christ made it a reality. And Christ gave it substance. In other words, the shadow indicates presence of reality. The Law is a shadow which points to reality but the

Law is not reality. Christ is the reality and the only Celebrity.

We all become something we're not because of the First Advent of Jesus Christ. Aorist, active, subjunctive of the verb GINOMAI, to become something we weren't before.

In verse 19 we get the principle of spirituality in the Old Testament under a crash program. What was spirituality under this crash program to the disciples? Verse 19, "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so." "Break" is the word which means to infringe, it means to render them not binding, loosing the force of them. It says "He shall be the least," which is a future, passive, indicative. The future is logical progression. Passive voice means that he will receive this designation. Indicative mood is the reality that he is low on the totem pole. So, he not only infringes himself, but teaches others to do likewise.

Verse 19 continues with "But whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven." Jesus Christ says that the Law is not fulfilled yet and you're still under the Law. Don't try to take one YOD, jot, or one VAV, tittle, out of the Mosaic Law. The great ones are the ones who teach it and do it. The least are the ones who will not and teach against it. They are under the Law until the Law is fulfilled. So, consequently they are never lawless. They'll move to a Higher Law, but they'll never be lawless.

Notice, the Lord Jesus Christ here, **puts practice before preaching.** "Whosoever shall do and teach, the same shall be great in the kingdom of Heaven." In other words, the teacher must apply the doctrines himself before he is qualified to teach others. Personal application first.

The scribes and Pharisees were men who would say something and not do it. They would preach and not perform. This is Jesus Christ's test of greatness. In other words, this would be the principle of "hearers only and not doers." In Matthew 23:2, 3 He says that "The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe,

that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not." In other words, there are a lot of religious talkers and they have a great deal of inconsistency. They teach something and they tell you not to do it and they do it themselves.

This 18th verse makes this clear. This is one of the principles on verse 18. Even the smallest letter, the Hebrew YOD, or jot, as you have here, shall not come to pass, not even the least letter can be set aside, but all will be accomplished. So, right here in verse 18 we have one of the strongest words for the inspiration and the infallibility of the Bible. He says "Even the YOD is of Him." It means that "until the Heavens and the Earth pass away one IOTA, or one tittle, shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all come to pass." This is Divine infallibility, and will come to pass. This is a declaration by the Lord Jesus Christ on the inspiration of the Word of God. This is in full harmony of the entire testimony of the Word of God.

In verses 19 and 20 the Lord Jesus Christ speaks of the doing and the teaching of the commandments. Here we are, of course, on Jewish ground. Matthew is still talking about the Jews. There is to be a surpassing righteousness, or better righteousness, for the one who is going to enter the kingdom of Heaven. In other words, their righteousness was their own, and was insufficient for the entering into of the kingdom of Heaven. Now, after He had confirmed the Law, and made it immutable, He began to teach that surpassing righteousness which He demands. He teaches the Law in its fullest and deepest spiritual meanings.

Here we see all the majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Law Giver. Not only does He show in these expansions to the Law in declaring the righteousness, His Divine authority will uncover the human heart, and will show the deep corruption and hopelessness that the natural man could ever attain to such a righteousness. It condemns every human being and condemnation comes from every word, as far as the natural man is concerned.

Now, we approach in verses 21-48 the part in the Sermon on the Mount about **the**

problems of mental attitude sins. This is one area in which very few people are familiar with. You ask someone about what the worst sins are, they always mention something overt. Very few people are ever asked, even erroneously, to confess mental attitude sins. There's no religion in the world that **ever** mentions mental attitude sins.

In verses 21–48 we have that part of the Sermon on the Mount which amplifies the Mosaic Law. The Lord Jesus Christ is now going to explain the Mosaic Law. As far as the background for this is, you should be aware of Proverbs 6. In other words, Proverbs 6 will introduce our section, because that is where we have the problem of mental attitude sins. Proverbs 6:16, the Scripture says that these are the abominational sins. It says that **these are the worst**. Seven are listed there. Note how many mental attitude sins and how many sins of the tongue are mentioned.

Proverbs 6:17 says that the first one on the list is "**a proud look**." Naturally, that's an idiom for **pride**. That would be mental attitude EGO. Pride is the **original sin of Satan**. Pride was in the **original sin of mankind**. They were challenged by Satan, who said, "**You shall be as God**." **Pride is one of the most subtle sins**. The average person thinks that if you have a good posture and you're dogmatic, then they say that you're a proud person. But that's NOT a proud person. The **proudest** people in the world are those who stand round-shouldered and are self-righteous.

The principle of Proverbs 6:17, "**a proud look**," is **legalism is still the greatest manifestation of pride**. And "**a proud look**" is **antagonistic to GRACE**. Pride is probably the other philosophy of life. In other words, the **true philosophy of life is faith**. All the others are pride. Satan's platform for the human race is **pride, the pattern of life**. When people are thinking, it's always pride, like "I can do it myself," and they can provide whatever is necessary. So, you really have two philosophies. The philosophy of pride and the philosophy of faith.

The second mental attitude sin of Proverbs 6:17 is a **lying tongue**. We could ac-

tually put out three categories of these sins. One, Mental; Two, Tongue; Three, Overt. The first one in Proverbs 6:17 is "**a proud look**," that's mental. Then, Proverbs 6:17 says "**a lying tongue**," and that's a sin of the tongue, which is discussed in the book of James. Then, there's an overt, "**those who shed innocent blood**," which is murder. This is the third sin that is mentioned in Matthew 5:21, of the Sermon on the Mount.

Here are the three worst sins: **A proud look, a lying tongue, and those who shed innocent blood**. These categories come in order and set up a syntactical precedent. What are the worst of all the sins? **Mental attitude sins are by far the worst**. There's nothing as bad because **they are easy to commit**. No one has ever been put in jail for mental attitude sins. Today no one is put in jail for overt sins either, you know what I mean? You can never actually stop mental attitude sins. There is no legislation designed to do that. Once in awhile we have someone who is given the chair. But we don't have anybody who is caught for committing mental murder.

So, mental attitude sins are easy to commit and they are easily **condoned**. Practically every self-righteous, legalistic person is guilty of them to the **maximum**. The second is the sin of the tongue and the third is murder.

In verse 18 of Proverbs 6 we have the fourth one. It says "the heart," which is the thinking part of the mind, "**that devises wicked imaginations**." Actually that's "operation hatred." This is a mental attitude counterpart of murder, which is hatred. This is hatred and hostility in the mind. In other words, **mental murder**.

The fifth one in Proverbs 6:18 is "**feet that be swift in running to mischief**." That's a sin of the tongue. See, "running" is a system of **gossip**. In other words, before they had phones, and called people on the phone and said "Do you know what So-'n-so did?" and they used to run back and forth with these tales. The Bible must be interpreted in the time in which it was written. If it was written in the 20th century it would say someone who gets on the phone. So, you had to walk, to

move, to gossip. Now it's very easy. All you have to do is put your finger down on a button and pick up the phone, and you don't even have to walk anymore to do it.

The sixth one is found in Proverbs 6:19, "the false witness that speaketh lies." That's another sin of the tongue. In this case it is perjury. That's going on every day, everywhere. The seventh one in Proverbs 6:19 is "he that soweth discord among his brethren." That's **maligning**.

There are three categories of personal sin: **mental attitude** (pride, hatred), four that deal with the **sins of the tongue** (lying, gossip, perjury, and maligning), and one **overt** sin (murder). One out of seven. You take the average Christian today and you ask him the question. Ask him to list for you the seven worst sins and see what you get. He'll probably have, out of a list of seven, five or six overt sins. I want you to notice, I'm not condoning it but we'll get to it in a minute, but out of these seven, adultery is omitted entirely. Isn't that interesting? Yet that would be #1 on the list, wouldn't it? That's good because it can test your shockability, or what shocks you. Take a good look at this list because we are going to see this list in operation in part of the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:21-48 says, that since the Jews were living under the Mosaic Law at that time, remember that, they were not in the Church Age, since the Mosaic Law was the way of life, remember that we're dealing with the ministry of our Lord. This is talking about His last three years on this Earth. And during that time and 50 days after, the Law was **still in operation** to Israel. So, there must be an amplification of the Mosaic Law. You know, when Jesus Christ arose they were still under the Mosaic Law, until 50 days later, before the Holy Spirit came.

The Church and the Christian way of life has nothing whatsoever to do with the Mosaic Law. Remember we studied beforehand that it was given to Israel. Jesus Christ was talking to His disciples. They're going to the lost sheep of the house of Israel with their ministry. And He's going to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. They must be able to handle the Mosaic

Law perfectly in order to witness to these Jews. Which means that if you're going to deal with people like the rich young ruler in Matthew 19, how are you going to deal with him? He's a religious, self-righteous person, which is the worst kind to witness to. We'll see that coming up.

There's a principle here: **A religious nation is a spawning ground for self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is the greatest enemy of GRACE.** To break down this self-righteousness, see, Codex #1 says "we've all sinned and come short of the glory of God," so Codex #1 must be broken down and that's the reason for this particular segment.

Verses 21 and 22. You have to have a clear mind on this, not an open mind. An open mind means that something goes in and goes out. You must have a clear mind on this. The subject is murder. This first case in verses 21 and 22 is the murder case. Remember, murder is one of the seven worst sins out of Proverbs 6. It's the only overt one. In verse 21 we'll have the citation of the sixth commandment. In verse 22 we'll have the amplification of it.

In verse 21 I want you to notice something because you might have passed it in your reading. "Ye have heard." He says that you have heard this. This is not the first time. They heard it in Exodus 20:13. This, of course, refers to the Old Testament. It refers to the sixth commandment. It's an aorist tense, which is a point of time when the sixth commandment was given. Remember in our earlier studies in John and Luke, they are always trying to kill the Lord Jesus Christ. Every time they tried to it was said "His hour was not yet come." So, actually they are thinking murder. Remember, they're envious and jealous. That's the mental attitude sins that precede this. We'll get into that in just a minute. Notice where He's hitting. They're really guilty of this.

I want you to notice something very interesting in the structure here. In each case, after making quotations from the Old Testament, He interpreted their true meaning and showed that He was not destroying, but fulfilling. In other words, He was making use of words that they had been accustomed to which had

been interpreted by the Scribes and Pharisees as to the external obligations and He showed them that these external requirements could only be fulfilled according to the mind of Christ as men acted from an inner source.

In verse 18 notice, it says, "I say." In verse 22 it says, "I say." In verse 26, "I say." In verse 28, "I say." Verse 32, "I say." Verse 34, "I say." Verse 30, "I say." Verse 44, "I say." Then in between verse 21, "You have heard," verse 27, "you have heard," verse 33, "you have heard," verse 38, "you have heard," verse 43, "you have heard." So, you can imagine that they should be familiar with this by now.

Verse 21, "You have heard that it was said of them of old times." "Old times" refers to the teaching of the Word of God in the past. So, we have another principle: God was faithful in communicating the Word of God to them in the past, and He's still faithful. He says "Ye have heard," which refers to Exodus 20:13. "Thou shalt not kill." **That is incorrectly translated.** It is wrong. Period and out. It's not correctly translated from Exodus 20:13. It has been abused in many ways and many groups of people have abused this. But, the word looks like this. You'll have it down and you'll be able to look it up for yourself if you're that interested. If someone says "Thou shalt not kill," well, that's wrong. Here's the word right here: PHONEUO It means to murder. There's a difference between murder and killing. If you haven't divided it in your mind, then the Bible will for us. The word for murderer is PHONEUS. "Thou shalt not murder" is all one word in the Greek language. And with all of the commandments it's in the future tense, which also indicates a logical progression. "Thou shalt not murder."

Now, I don't know whether you know it or not, but there are times when the Bible authorizes killing. Under Divine Institution #4, nationalism, killing is commanded under the principle of capital punishment. You have it here. You have it in Romans 13 and in Genesis 9. Capital punishment is vitally necessary for the enforcement of the law. You can tell which way we're going, or anybody's going when you see their attitude about capital punishment. There are certain conditions un-

der which God says that capital punishment must be used.

Let me ask you a question: What was the mode of capital punishment when the Lord was here on the Earth? Did capital punishment exist while the Lord was here on this Earth? #1, yes, capital punishment did exist at that time. What was the mode of capital punishment when He was here on Earth? There were two modes: The Jewish method of capital punishment was stoning to death. The Roman method was crucifixion. You know, Rome crucified a lot of people.

For example, France had the guillotine. There have been all different types and methods. In fact, when we had a good dime, when it had silver in it, on the back of it it shows you the principle of capital punishment upon which this nation was serving. They've replaced that dime with Franklin Roosevelt. If you have one of those old ones, then you can see it. But, there are certain conditions under which God says capital punishment must be used. Not only is capital punishment a part of Divine Institution #4, it's also a part of Divine judgment. In other words, to actually terminate other races when they become as mad dogs, so to speak. They must be removed.

In the case of the Canaanites God removed them. Sodom and Gomorrah, you know, something like Montrose. God removed them. Certain descendants of Ham God removed. They have to be totally and completely exterminated from history. Otherwise they are like mad dogs and the whole human race gets hydrophobia. How is God going to be able to perpetuate the human race, to resolve the angelic conflict? By removing the homosexuals from the scene. It's very simple. I think He's doing a great work.

I was thinking about this the other day. Do you know how many sexual diseases there are now, and it's getting progressive all the time? You know, years ago we used to have syphilis, which was a bad one, and gonorrhea was a bad one, clap was another one. Now we've forgotten all about herpes when we got into this AIDS. Now we're really winding it up and it's self-destructive. They're destroying themselves. In Hollywood they've just gone

crazy. They are worried to death about making movies and kissing each other, because they're going to end up on the floor, too. So, we're in "good" shape here.

I was thinking the other day about how everybody is talking about Mexico and what happened down there with that earthquake. Do you realize what goes on in Mexico? I wonder how many people in Mexico accepted Christ as Saviour when that thing hit. That's interesting. Because "Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved." A lot of those people were buried underneath the Earth and they couldn't get a priest to them to read them their "last rites." So, that's superstition. There they are laying there and a guy calls out and so the Lord hears him and he is saved and he goes right to Heaven. You know, there has got to be a lot of death bed conversions also.

So, there are segments of the human race. Remember, for example, in the book of Joshua, in Jericho, there was a ban put upon Achan. Not only the people, but the animals had to be exterminated also. Were it not for Divine judgment we wouldn't be here today. You know, if God didn't remove certain segments of the human race, we wouldn't have even been here as a nation. You just look back on history, God, in His GRACE, has removed certain segments of the population. In Isaiah we'll study where the Jews got up one morning and God destroyed 185,000 Assyrian infantry. They just laid dead right there outside of their tents.

All right, an application about Vietnam. Everybody's so subjective about Vietnam. They forget about WW I and WW II. What about the believer in Vietnam? Here's a believer in Vietnam and he sees this Viet Cong coming towards him. What does he do? "Peace, brother?" What does a believer do when here is this guy coming at him? What do you do? "Have a bowl of rice together?" The Bible says that there is a time to kill and a time not to kill. So, you have to know the Word of God as to when and when not to kill. It's very simple. He says, "You have heard that it was said by them of old times, Thou shalt not murder. And whosoever shall murder," same word, "shall be in danger of the judgment." The word "danger of judgment"

is liable under obligation, subject to penal actions. In other words you're guilty from this deed.

The second "whosoever shall murder" is an aorist, active, subjunctive. The aorist tense means in a point of time when you violate common law, as a civilian you murder someone. The active voice means that you actually commit the murder. The subjunctive mood means that murder is potential. You don't have to do it. But, the reason why it is committed is because of **volition**. Then it says "shall be in danger of the judgment." This is **temporal judgment**. Judgment from the legal system of a national entity. Romans 13. So, Divine Institution #4, nationalism, then is a court room with a judge on the bench and a policeman on the corner, and **no interference from central government**. That's Romans 13:4.

Murder is contrary to all common law. When they asked the 26th president of the United States "What do you think, Mr. Roosevelt, about murder?" He said, "Murder is not debatable" and he wrote a whole book on it. You can't debate it. We're debating it. You know, what should we do? What shouldn't we do? Should we feed and clothe them? It's not debatable. He murdered and that's the end. It's not even a question.

Murder is an infringement on the volition of another person, on the rights of some other individual. We're all talking about civil rights. When you murder someone you just violated their civil rights. How about that? Where are mine? If you kill someone their volition no longer operates. You have eliminated their freedom permanently.

Now, when we get into the military it's a different situation. The enemy is coming at you, if you're in a situation like that. And he's got positive volition. You know these Russians and Chinese, and these Arabs and all, have positive volition. Guess what their positive volition is. **To kill you!!** You don't believe it because you're so nice, but their positive volition is to kill you. And you have positive volition also. What is your positive volition? To live as long as you possibly can because you're an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ He's got

positive volition and you've got positive volition. The next time that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals meets, you must remember that the SPCA would not exist if it were not for the fact that someone did a lot of killing along the way for them to get up and have this society. Because, I have news for you, there's no society like this in Russia or China for the prevention of killing animals or plants. Believe me! For these people to get up and perform in their society someone had to die to give them the freedom to make a fool out of themselves.

There have been some Americans, whether you know it or not, who have killed some British people. Otherwise you wouldn't be here. There have been some people in this country who have killed a lot of Indians. I don't want you to tell Robert Redford that because he'll have a heart attack. And Marlin Brando. Because they get all upset because they think that the Indians were Americans. They weren't. Not in our sense of the word. The Indians wouldn't go along with society. They ate puppy dog stew, they ate cats, they ate skunks, horses, and mules. They were on drugs all of the time, the peyote seed. They did satanic worship where they worshiped the sun and put hooks in their skins and they lacerated their bodies to gain entrance into Heaven. They were demon possessed. And we're talking about those "dear old Indians." We have the audacity to call the Cleveland ball club the Indians and Atlanta the Braves.

We know nothing about history. If someone didn't kill off all those Indians we wouldn't be here either. If it were not for the fact that members of the American forces, wearing the uniform of this country, have killed all kinds of people, British, French, Spanish, Mexican, German, Japanese, all kinds of people. Even a couple of Russians, you know that no one knew about.

You know, all of those people wanted to interfere with us. They wanted to mind our business. They don't want us to run our own business. So, these various people have been killed in large numbers to just show the human race that we like to live and let live. That's the type of people we are. So, all kinds of people

have died from American bullets and rightfully so. Personally you as a civilian may have to make up your mind some day, you may or may not, if we keep on going the way that we're going, we may not have the opportunity to even take part in another war. But the application of the principle is this: You're going to have to make decisions, possibly some day, when a Russian or a Chinese communist faces you, and you're going to have to ask yourself a question, Are you going to shoot or are you going to be taken? You have the same prerogative when someone knocks on your door. Civilians might have to fight the next war, if there is one. Because we don't have a military. You're going to have to decide before the Lord what you're going to do. Are you going to fight or run? Or are you going to surrender to people like that?

The verse says, "Thou shalt not murder," **not** "Thou shalt not kill." You have to establish policy for yourself where it is possible. Your policy should be in conformity with the Word of God. Don't misinterpret this passage. No one wants to die. But, there are things worth dying for. You say, well, I can't think of an application. Well, the Cross is something worth dying for. Wasn't it? There are many times when it is better to die than to become a slave. You have to make up your mind about that one, too.

So, He says, "You have heard that it was said by them of old times," the teaching of the Word of God, the Old Testament, the sixth commandment, "thou shalt not murder; and whosoever shall murder shall be in danger, guilty, liable, of justice." In other words, capital punishment, first degree murder.

An amplification of verse 21 is found in verse 22. "But I say unto you That whosoever is angry ..." The word for angry is ORGIZO. This is for all of those who wouldn't squash an ant and all the bleeding hearts. This is the **most vicious type of murder**. You know, some guys say "We don't believe in wars. We don't believe in murder. We don't believe in killing. We don't believe in stepping on an ant, or wearing the leather belts, or leather shoes," or all of this stuff. Yet, here is one which is the most vicious type of murder, **anger**. It falls

into two categories, but one is selected here. **anger** and **hatred**. Here is anger. Later on in the passage will be hatred. Anger is a mental attitude sin. Hatred is a mental attitude sin. So, the principle is: **When you're angry with someone, when you hate someone, that's a tantamount to murder**. Remember Proverbs 6. What is the worst category of sin? **Mental attitude**. The Mosaic Law, the sixth commandment, said "Thou shalt not murder." "I say, Whoever is angry," and later on "Whoever hates his brother." The worst sins are in the mind. On the basis of this verse, no matter what your politics may be, or your attitude about animals or people, have you ever murdered anyone? According to this verse "Whosoever is angry." Now, you answer your own question. Have you ever murdered anyone? I'll answer it for you. We're all murderers according to this verse.

There's no such thing as a person who doesn't lose their temper. You may keep it back verbally, but you can be boiling inside. You've been there. There's no such thing as a person who hasn't hated someone else. Overtly you say "Why, I wouldn't hurt a fly. Not me." But, in your mind there is hostility, hatred. So consequently this knocks us all out. We're all guilty of mental murder.

Get the context of this. Jesus Christ is going to send out His disciples. He's going to send them to a bunch of stuffy, self-righteous, hypocritical, religious type of people, the Jews. And they're unsaved. Some how He has to break through. Most of them are trying to keep the Mosaic Law to be saved. Yet the Scripture makes it very clear knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Even we who have believed in Christ, that we might be justified by the faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law.

For by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified. **No one has ever been saved by keeping the Mosaic law**. But, in Israel in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, everyone was trying to be saved by keeping the Law, and so you have to shock them out of it. In other words, murder shocks everyone. It's a shocking thing to see people killed. It isn't pleasant. It's shocking. The Jews in their self-righteous-

ness, in their piousness, looked down their noses and said "We never murdered anyone." But they are guilty of the worst kind of murder. They are filled with anger towards the Lord. He's the perfect Lord of glory and they hate Him. The Scribes and the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin hold counsel after counsel to try to find some way of killing Him. They want to murder Him. Many times the people picked up stones to stone Him. They wanted to destroy Him because of hate. So, He says "That's murder." So, they have to be shocked. They have to see themselves as they are.

If they are really going to be saved, you know, people who were saved in the day of our Lord weren't these Scribes and Pharisees, they were the prostitutes and tax collectors. "Not many righteous." How are you going to break through with the Gospel to a religious nation?

You know, we're a religious nation, whether you know it or not. We're a self-righteous nation. We scream and holler when someone tries to use different means to kill the Viet Cong. We went crazy. The National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches were lobbying in Washington because of the means we were trying to kill our enemies. I'll tell you what. If your son (or daughter, maybe) were in one of these bunkers in Vietnam, and they were being charged by one of these Viet Cong, wouldn't you honestly before the Lord want your son to have every weapon he could devise, including gas, regardless of how vicious or how horrible it was. You sure would. You'd want him to be as equipped as the other person, and sometimes better. Some of the gas that the people were complaining about in Vietnam would not kill, but only paralyze them. But, in this country 1,000's of people raised their voices and screamed about how horrible it was. You know, any way that you kill an enemy in war should be wonderful, no matter how you do it.

David, in the Psalms, was very mature and spiritual. And you remember the incident where he stood before Goliath. He said to Goliath, "Now, Goliath, let's get together here, because you know the Bible says 'Thou shalt not kill.'" He said that, didn't he? So, he says,

“Well, since the Bible says “Thou shalt not kill, I’m going to have to neutralize you and talk you out of it.” Now, here’s a monster, nine feet tall, with a great big weaver’s beam. He’s about to let David have it. So, you just go up to him and say “Thou shalt not kill” and he is supposed to drop his weapon. **Not on your life!**

Remember the story. David knocked him out with a stone. After he knocked him out he didn’t say “Count 10 and then you’re out.” Not at all. It said in 1 Samuel 17 he climbed on top of the monster and he pulled out his big sword and chopped his head right off. In other words, he killed him. And, by the way, he carried his head around and his sword around as a memorial to the GRACE of God. What was the will of God? Was the will of God for David to kill his enemy or not? It sure was. Let’s hope that some day, some where down the line, we break out of our current way of thinking. Maybe we need the Sermon on the Mount.

So, verse 22 says, But, to what you have heard with regard to the sixth commandment as an overt sin, I want to point out to you that it is an inner sin. “But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry.” ORGIZO means to have an object and to have an attitude toward that object which is totally negative. Hatred desires to destroy. It desires to hurt. It’s hostility. It’s enraged because you envy someone. Maybe it’s anger because of pride and your pride is hurt. Sometimes you’re ignored. Sometimes you’re abased. Whatever it happens to be, you can’t stand someone. It may be that they exert authority over you, they straighten you out. Maybe they slap you down. And they sit on you and you resent it. So, it’s the word ORGIZO. So, murder extends itself. It begins with a mental attitude, and the mental attitude of murder becomes implacability.

ORGIZO is a present tense, which means that it is perpetuated. How is it perpetuated? In your mind you have anger, which is based upon envy or pride. It leads to a hostility, which we call implacability. It expresses itself through the mouth with maligning someone. Maligning becomes a part of the murder package. You can’t stand someone because they’ve straightened you out. They have told you something that you needed to hear and you didn’t like it

and your pride was hurt. And you’re envious of something someone else has, which you don’t have, or some ability that you don’t have, or the attention of someone that you desire. So, this lust begins to operate in the old sin nature. And the lust of the old sin nature produces mental attitude murder. Once mental attitude murder is fixed in the mind, then you begin to run down that person.

The interesting thing is that these people make their own misery. They are always miserable. People catch on to them and people are tired of being murdered and they separate themselves from them. So, when people murder you with any frequency, what do you do? You stay away from them. Who wants to be murdered? Those who murder you usually have a guilt complex later. They change their mind and they want to do things for you. Romans 16 says “avoid them.” These people make their own misery. You can’t murder people mentally and get away with it. You may think that you are getting away with it. You may discredit someone, but you don’t get away with it. You’re only manufacturing your own misery. That’s where Hebrews 12:6, Divine discipline comes up.

So, the Sermon on the Mount has some wonderful applications. This is a good time to apply them. We ask ourselves a question: Do we hate someone? Are we hostile to anyone? So, we answer this to ourselves. Have you run down someone? Have you discredited someone because you despise them? Because you’re jealous? Because you’re full of sour grapes? Because of pride? And they’ve hurt you in some way. The point is **that you can’t serve the Lord with a mental attitude full of sins.** You can learn all the doctrine that you think that you know, but you don’t. If you run around with mental attitude sins, then you neutralize yourself and you’re not a glory to the Lord. You’re not even a personable or presentable person toward the human race. Any smart person will walk a mile to get around you. You’re no testimony to the Lord.

Christ gets to the sin part on the Sermon on the Mount and the first thing He mentions is the mental attitude sin, murder, ORGIZO. The greatest trap of all is the mental attitude

sin. ORGIZO must have an object. It always has a person in mind. It's always vented towards someone, envious towards someone, someone has hurt your pride, someone has ignored you, someone has insulted you. If this is true, then you're miserable and you can't be in fellowship. There's no joy and there's no inner happiness. So, you have to be aware of the mental attitude sin of murder. You have to face up to the sin. You have to confess it. This is a very subtle thing.

Next time we'll take up verse 22 and following. We'll see how the Lord interprets and

explains the Mosaic Law. He narrows it down to the mental attitude.

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Buddy Dano, Pastor
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