

The 10 Commandments: You Shall Not Murder

Reflect

1. What is the difference between killing and murder?
2. Have you ever been angry with someone?
3. What is the connection (or the disconnect) between action and attitude?

Read Your Bible

- Deuteronomy 5:17
- Matthew 5:21-22

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Describe a time when you were angry with someone.
2. Describe a time when you withheld forgiveness. Considering today's readings, how do you think Jesus would view that?
3. Talk about what distinguishes killing from murder.
4. What is the difference between thoughts, words, and deeds in God's judgement on this subject?
5. Jesus cares about both our actions and our attitudes. Talk about some times when these might not match up.
6. What are some actions we can take that will help affect our attitudes?

Conclusion

At first thought, the commandment "do not murder" seems like the easiest commandment to keep. We hear from Jesus though that it is not enough to simply refrain from committing homicide, but rather we should not harbor any anger or call someone a derogatory name, or we are subject to the same judgement as if we had murdered someone. When you put it that way, the commandment doesn't seem so easy anymore. God looks at not only our actions, but also our attitudes. He sees our hearts and our attitudes toward one another, and although human courts don't try people for inner anger, the angry person is still subject to God's judgement. The next time you feel angry toward someone, pray for God's peace and a heart to see that person as He does because murder isn't just an action. In God's view, murder is a matter of the heart.

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of Your Commandments so that we can better understand your will for our lives. Search our hearts and help us to let go of any anger we may be holding on to. Help us to love and value people the way You do in our thoughts, words, and actions. In Jesus' name. Amen