



VI

DO  
NOT  
MURDER

**Exodus 20:13**

*“You shall not murder.”*





# REFLECT

*What did you hear?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What do you think?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What will you do?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Now talk with God...* \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Exodus 20:13; Genesis 9:6; Matthew 5:21-26.
2. Why is the taking of another person's life such a serious offense before God?
3. Consider life in all of its dimensions: the unborn, the elderly, the scarred, the handicap, etc. How is this command applicable to the breadth of life and all its variations?
4. How did Jesus' teaching broaden the definition of this command not to murder?
5. How ought we to handle our anger towards another? What are the proper steps of dealing with anger?
6. How does gossip and slander fall under the condemnation of murder?
7. How does one maintain a clear conscience towards God and others? What are the steps towards forgiving and being forgiven?
8. Restate this command in a positive light. How would this command read?



## DAY 26 - DO NOT MURDER

# Living A Bitter-Free Life

Matthew 5:21-26

I doubt that anyone reading this devotional has committed the crime of murdering someone. Yet, how many reading this devotional would be willing for an IMAX screen to reveal the names and faces of everyone you have hated over the years?

Yet, Jesus said that even if you are *“angry with your brother, you are in danger of the judgment!”*

Paul says in Galatians that we are not to *“Bite and devour one another!”* (Gal. 5:15). That sounds a bit like “Christian Cannibalism.” Murdering with words.

What if we really believed that every time we put someone down, made a snide remark, or rolled our eyes in response to someone else, sooner or later we would be hurt to the same degree? Did you know that others will talk about you to the degree you talk about others?

We need to be open and honest in our daily prayer lives that we never allow bitterness and hatred for others, to boil and soak in our minds! Run to prayer and allow the Spirit of God to put you on a fresh path of love! Love is a parable of God working in the hearts of His children.

**Application:** If there is hatred towards someone in your heart, would you be willing to stop and seek forgiveness and reconciliation?

Do not allow hatred to become a deficiency in your life. Love, it is a choice, are you willing to love unconditionally today?

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DAY 27 - DO NOT MURDER

## Chub Shuts Down A Pepsi Plant

Psalm 139:13-18 / Psalm 46:1

Twenty-five years ago, I had the opportunity to take a special needs friend from Kansas, Chub Jamison, to the Pepsi Plant in Modesto. I called ahead and talked to the manager about bringing Chub, (who was Downs-Syndrome) to tour their Plant. Chub loved PEPSI!!

I was shocked when we arrived! Twenty employees greeted him upon arrival! And for the next hour, Chub was taken on a special tour of the entire plant! Stopping at each station, the employees would stop and hand Chub an ice-cold Pepsi!

Chub would drink it, take out his harmonica, and play "Amazing Grace!" I witnessed more than a few tears!

I will never forget the joy of that day! Not just from the Manager, but also the entire staff! The manager, upon departure, gave Chub a "Special Edition" glass-bottled Pepsi.

God has created His children in so many special ways! Everyone is precious to Him! There is an incredible joy that children with special needs bring to everyone they meet! And their parents love for them has never been based on their abilities!

Parent's with a special needs child are doing God's kingdom work by impacting the trajectory of a child's life one moment at a time! Every life is important to the Lord. Many consider aborting a special needs child, but the Lord has a purpose and plan for each and every child! Praise the Lord!

**Application:** Maybe you have a child with special needs. Are you grateful seeing how there are no social barriers to ever be worried about? Are you thankful that even with your hardships, that life is now singing an even greater melody?

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## Divinely Defined

Job 33:4

As I've gotten older, a mirror is not my friend. It reflects all the physical changes that come with aging. Thankfully, when I look in the Lord's mirror, the Bible, the reflection is completely different. He tells me He knew me before I was born, I'm significant, and that I am precious in His sight. He even tells me I'm made in His image!

An image is a representation or likeness of its object. How we represent the image of God is how we live our lives. It is when we know, love, and obey God that His image shines best. Though sin has a way of tarnishing that image, God is there to shine it up. So, to reflect His image, we should spend dedicated time in His Word, pray continually, be obedient, and trust the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. As we represent God, we have a wonderful opportunity to share with others the love and worth He places on all life.

**Application:** "Lord, thank you that I'm made in Your image. Cleanse my heart of the sins that tarnish Your reflection. As I represent You, may I be an encouragement to those You bring my way. Amen."

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# Loving And Treasuring Others

Micah 6:8

Have you ever been falsely accused or mistreated by someone while in their care? I have. I bet most of us have to some degree: family, a job, school, for example. We can hurt and wonder... “Does God even see me?” Does God care about me and what I am going through?” Good news: He does.

Tucked in the Old Testament is a small book called Micah. Micah was a country prophet living on the outskirts, which included living amongst the poor, the disadvantaged and the lame. Micah spent a good amount of time warning the rulers that God saw what they were doing, and God did not like it. What were the leaders doing, you may wonder? Leaders were taxing the poor to crippling conditions and taking advantage of those who were weaker with no power and no voice.

In Micah 6:8, the verse begins with a statement, *“He has told you, O man, what is good...”* In other words, I am God and I have shown you, mere man, what is good. God has set the good standard. Unfortunately, the world can and does let us down, but we can put our trust and faith in God’s character. God is good and cares about the treatment of His people.

God cares about how we are treated and how we treat others. Micah 6:8 continues, *“Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with your God.”* God requires we do what is right and fair, to be kind, extend mercy and stay close to God with an attitude of “Yes, Lord”.

**Application:** We grieve over mistreatment, but we do not need to grieve without hope. God grieves as well and sees you. Pray “Lord, thank You for Your care and compassion. You are a good, good God. Help me see and treat others the way You desire with the power and help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

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## DAY 30 - DO NOT MURDER

# Life Is Precious

Acts 13:36-41

True followers of Christ endeavor to see the world as the Lord sees the world and to love the same things that our Lord loves. This is life-changing! Everywhere the gospel has gone, Christ-followers bring the grace of God into the slums of the world, to the poor, sick and downtrodden, and the “non-essentials.” As Jesus willingly touched and loved the leprous, so have Christ-followers in every generation. Early Christians rescued unwanted discarded baby girls, abandoned, ill slaves, and the terminally sick. Even today some of our own BVG members have gone to faraway places to rescue street children in large metropolitan centers, showing the love of Christ.

The Word tells us that we are all made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). We are all His workmanship with His purposes in mind (Ephesians 2:10). Our Creator knows all of our comings and goings, personally formed us in the womb, and has numbered our days (Psalm 139).

Every life—from the pre-born infant, to the elderly, from those with down syndrome or hearing impairments, to brain injuries, Parkinson disease, or dementia—each one is precious to God and each fulfills a part of His kingdom purposes, until He takes us home!

The Lord used my brain-injured aunt to form a heart of compassion in her family, including her nephews and nieces. We are personally witnessing couples fulfilling their marital vows as they care for their bedridden mates. We have experienced the powerful mentorship of a great grandparent to his/her great grandchildren. The legacy they pass on will be lived out in generations to come. The gospel gives purpose to our lives until they are all fulfilled and the Lord takes us home! Praise the Lord!

**Application:** “Thank you, Abba Father, for the life that you have given to me. I don’t want to miss a single purpose of my creation. Help me today to live for You! Amen!”

*Contributed by Pastor Lonnie Skiles*

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# JOURNAL







