



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - October 9, 2011

Sermon

10 Commandments:

"The Sixth Commandment"

Exodus 20:13

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 10/10/11

Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder. This sounds straightforward and easy enough. Except, what exactly is murder? Does a hunter murder the animal he hunts? Didn't the Old Testament condone sacrificing animals on the altar? It seems like this commandment has do to with taking the life of another human being. But is this ever justified? What about when someone is making a real threat to kill you or a family member? We live in a violent world. What do God's words have to say about living in a violent world? How can we live as Christians in a violent world?

Tuesday 10/11/11

Matthew 5:21-22

These words of Jesus change everything! Jesus is preaching the Sermon on the Mount here in this passage. He says, "You have heard it said, 'You shall not murder.'" But then Jesus adds words that make this commandment much more difficult. He says that if you get angry at someone you will be liable to judgment. What does this mean? Is anger a sin? Or is what we do with our anger the problem? Are you able to control you own anger all the time? How do you manage your anger? Is anger ever justified? Was Jesus angry when he drove the moneychangers out of the temple?

Wednesday 10/12/11

1 Corinthians 6:19

John Wesley, in his Explanatory Notes to this passage in Exodus, adds that one should not do anything hurtful to their own body or anyone else's. This broadens things a bit and today we hear of some people who do things that are hurtful to their own bodies; sometimes in violent ways. This verse is quite clear that we are supposed to take good care of all human life, including our own.



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - October 9, 2011

Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

How is "murder" defined?

Is killing ever justified or right? What about self-defense?

Is this an easy commandment to keep and obey, especially considering what Jesus had to say about it?

Thursday 10/13/11
Ephesians 4:6

This verse is very clear, "Be angry but do not sin..." Anger is an emotion and in and of itself a feeling or an emotion is not wrong or right. It is what we do with that emotion or feeling that can get us into big trouble! Paul is clear here about controlling our anger and staying away from the sin that this emotion can get us into. Admittedly, this is difficult. When we get angry it is hard to control it. It's okay to be angry, just be careful how you express that anger!

Friday 10/14/11
1 John 3:12

"We must not be like Cain..." In the story of Creation we read that Adam and Eve's son, Cain, killed his brother Abel. This is the first murder recorded in the Bible. Why did Cain kill his brother? What created such anger in him that he was willing to kill his own family member? Do you ever get angry at your brother or sister? Don't they drive you nuts sometimes with the things they do and the way they act sometimes? How can we not be like Cain? Is this easy to do considering what Jesus added to this commandment?

Saturday 10/15/11
James 4:2

James puts an interesting perspective on this subject. He suggests that some people desire something that is not theirs so they commit murder to get it. Then at the end of the verse he talks about our low level of commitment to prayer. Instead of taking things into our own hands, perhaps we should try handing them over to God, asking God to bless us and provide for us instead. Can prayer keep us out of trouble? Who is in control in your life, you or God? Pray to God today, especially if you want something!