

Day One – Recap of Ten Commandments: Lesson 7

The sixth commandment is another example of why it's important to draw out the principle when God tells us to do something. Otherwise it would be pretty easy to look over this commandment, as it is not something with which we normally struggle. God gave us some helpful guidance toward this end in the Sermon on the Mount, where he extended murder to include those deeds committed only in thought.

Jesus' (*oh by the way...I was recently informed that I do not understand the rules surrounding plural possessives. I actually have no idea where the apostrophe goes in the word "Jesus."* I know that can be a stumbling block to some, so I thought I would just go ahead and punt.) aim in the Sermon on the Mount was pretty much to extend the commandments so that no person might think of himself as righteous. Some folks probably did misunderstand the Ten Commandments, but he wasn't really telling everybody they were wrong about the commandment. It was more like...he was telling everybody that they're a sinner. This is just something to keep in mind.

As far as an application of the commandment goes, there are a couple of things that I think we need to remember. I am sure this was covered at length on Sunday, but it bears repeating. God cares about how you treat other people! He loves them like He loves you and gave them dignity. We are always so concerned with man's sinfulness (and rightfully so) that we forget the other side of the coin. Men are a really big deal to God. We are the crown of His creation and occupy a special place in His affections. We are all valuable because the ultimate value-giver thinks so. We must be able to balance a low view of man in his sinfulness and a high view of what God has done in creating humans. Forgetting either side is a recipe for theological disaster.

The other thing I wanted to mention is just something to chew on. We usually qualify "You shall not kill" as really saying "You shall not murder." This way we can still support good Republican ideas like capital punishment and war. I'm not saying that these things are wrong or right, because those are really tough issues. What I do mean for you to take away is to be very *careful* when you interpret the Bible. God hates to take human life, whether or not the person "deserves" to die. I personally believe that intentionally taking others' lives is permissible, but to enjoy it is absolutely anti-Christian. Life is precious, whether you are an unborn fetus or a convicted murderer or a militant Muslim.

Day Two – Read Lesson Summary

Read Jeremiah 3:19-21.

Why does God compare Israel's sin to a "treacherous wife" who leaves her husband?

How was God like a husband to Israel?

Was Israel a faithful wife?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.

What did God promise that He will do for Israel?

What does this tell you about God?

Day Three – Read James 1:14-15

What tempts a person to sin? Where are those desires?

What three steps do you see in verse 15?

Why do you think that James talks about “birth” and “fully grown” when he talks about desire and sin?

Read Genesis 3:6-7.

How was Eve “enticed by [her] own desire”?

What happened to Eve's desire?

What was the result of Adam's and Eve's sin?

Day Four – Read Psalm 32

What did sin do to David?

What did David decide to do about his sin? What does this tell you about God?

How did David feel after he was forgiven?

When should the godly ask for repentance?

How does God instruct and teach us in the way we should go?

What advice does this Psalm give to us in verse 9? What is a mule like? Why does this Psalm tell us not to be like a mule?

Read the happy ending of the Psalm together! Why is David so glad?

Day Five – Read Genesis 39

What was Joseph's response to Potiphar's wife' invitation?

What does Joseph show about the desires of his heart?

Did Potiphar's wife give up? What does this tell you about temptations that come into your life?

What did Joseph do in the face of many temptations?

After being refused many times, did Potiphar's wife finally give up?

What did Joseph do then? Look at the word “fled”. What does this mean? What does this tell you about how to handle temptation?

What else did Joseph do in verse 12? What does this tell you about how to handle temptation?

Day Six – Read Job 31:1

What is a covenant?

What does Job mean when he says, “I have made a covenant with my eyes”?

What kind of covenant can you make with your eyes?

Read Philippians 4:8.