

FROM FEAR TO

FREEDOM



A STUDY ON THE LIFE OF MOSES

PASTOR'S NOTES - PART 27

THE LAW, P2

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From Fear to Freedom
 A Study On the Life of Moses
 Part 27: The Law, P2
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Several years before World War II was officially a war, another kind of war had quietly already been waged and won by Adolph Hitler throughout the hallways of elementary, middle and high schools across the country of Germany. Hitler knew that if Germany was going to be the country he envisioned, all German children would have to belong to the Reich.

Hitler, speaking about the children of Germany, spoke these words just months before invading Poland in September of 1939:

“The children now belong to us already. Parents, who are you? You will soon pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp – in our camp. In a short time, they will know nothing else but this new camp.”

Adolph Hitler, 1939

Hitler understood that to control children was to control the future. One of the first moves Hitler made in his attempt to gain the souls of children was to close all private and denominational schools throughout Germany essentially forcing all children into his government controlled system. He too outlawed all homeschools, and eventually, any alternative educational options for parents were eliminated.

Hitler worked to reeducate a young generation not just in how they *think*, but too how they *feel*. He was a mastermind at manipulating the emotions of people, particularly the young. Hitler understood that if you could influence one’s emotions, you could then dictate their actions.

Now, in unison, I presume we shake our heads in disgust at who this man was. Yet, we too must recognize the youth of today are being motivated to think, and to *feel*, in similar ways.

Across many platforms today, within the educational system, and absolutely through the medium of social media, our children are being taught both directly and indirectly to *feel* oppressed; to *feel* as victims; to *feel* alone; to *feel* misunderstood; or, even scarier, to not *feel* at all.

In so very many ways, our children and grandchildren are being indoctrinated to think in ways that are fully and completely void of any Scriptural gauge.

Their point of reference – their own feelings; even worse - no feelings at all. And do not believe I reference merely the unchurched. Christian children are being convinced that they are to keep their antiquated views to themselves. They are made to feel embarrassed and demoralized if displaying any way of thinking contrary to the world’s view on a plethora of issues. They too are being educated to “feel” as though, what was once spoken as the Commandments by God in Exodus 20, are now merely a “bible story of old; a former way of life; outdated; prejudiced; intolerant.”

But what we are going to continue to see through this study, From Fear to Freedom, is that these Commandments are eternal and true for all of time... and serve as the one, true moral light that will lead our children courageously into the future. Last week, we discussed the first three commandments:

Commandment #1: You shall have no other gods before me.

Commandment #2: You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

Commandment #3: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Today, I will teach on Commandments 4, 5 and 6. Let's hit it!

Commandment #4: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Exodus 20:8-11

Do you notice something unique about this commandment? Unlike the first three Commandments, this Commandment does not begin with the word "you." Instead, Commandment #4 is the only Commandment that begins with a call to "remember."

The "remember" is a call to His followers, then and forever more, to evoke that even God took a day to rest when creating the world. God is relaying the message to us: *Remember...*

"I took a day of rest. So should you!"

**Sabbath /Hebrew / sabbath
= day of rest**

The Bible specifies that there is to be a day of rest for us as a humanity. This not only provides you a day in which you focus, worship, and revere a Holy God. It too provides your body and mind a day to let down, to recharge, and to refill for the next week ahead.

Some reserve this day to be a Saturday; others a Sunday. My focus is less on which *day* one rests and instead on the simple command *to* rest. Notice too in verse 9... a very unpopular thought for us in such a modern day and time in America.

Exodus 20:9

Wow... how popular would this be... a six-day work week! What is also a critical point to note is that God does not merely call us to rest on the Sabbath. He calls us to make the Sabbath *holy*. And He is proclaiming the reality that one's resting is an expression of one's holiness for Him.

Practically speaking, how is one to make the Sabbath, this day of rest, a holy day?

(4SA) Keep the Sabbath Holy:

1. Worship together as a family wherever you are on the Sabbath.

Go to church. Or if you cannot, worship where you are!

2. Establish a culture of rest in your home.

Your family will follow your lead here. So, do your part to protect this day. And in doing so remember – such an action of rest is your personal expression of holiness.

3. Do not make important life decisions on the Sabbath.

Whether relationship decisions, work life, investments, etc., this day should be a day when you rest your mind rather than stress your mind.

This too is one reason as to why I have moved our Ministry Celebrations to a Wednesday. It is our responsibility as a Church to align operationally to God's command to keep the Sabbath day holy by not conducting the business and management of the church on the day that is to be set apart as a holy day of rest.

4. Refrain from allowing the day of rest to become a day of tasks.

This is a hard one, especially for my family; possibly for your family as well. We go so hard during the week, Sunday afternoons can easily become a time where we focus on responsibilities and chores around the house. Y'all, we have to work to see that this does not happen. God has commanded that this is to be a day where, as God says, "On it, you shall not do any work." Let's honor God by honoring His command!

Commandment #5: Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Exodus 20:12

Commandment #5 is the only Commandment which is accompanied with a promise! The first 4 Commandments proclaim how to love God with all of your heart, soul and mind. The 5th Commandment proclaims how to love your neighbor as yourself, and this begins within the family.

The family is the most important unit of society. Now, for those today who may be saying, "Pastor, this is really hard to do because one, or possibly even both, of my parents have not been good parents... or are not even followers of Christ." If this is you, I want to remind you, ever so gently, that...

The 5th commandment does *not* say,

"Honor your father and mother unless your father and mother are not honor-worthy."

Though difficult to do, it is important for you to remember that there is an honor due your parents because they, like you, are made in the image of God. And, when you choose to honor

them, you are acknowledging that as a child of God, your parent, or parents, are still loved by Him and created in the image of Him, and as your God-given parent, they are due your honor regardless of what they have, or have not, done for you or to you.

When you choose to look beyond your own hurt in showing honor to a parent not honor-worthy, you are saying, “I extend grace to one not deserving of such, as I too acknowledge that I have been given grace by a loving God of which I too am not deserving.”

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:3-5

Now... what does this look like practically...

How to honor a parent:

1. Pray for your parent(s).

One of the greatest ways you can honor your parent is through prayer. If needed, pray for a heart change. Pray for repentance. Pray for a renewed relationship. Pray for health. Pray for security. Pray for blessings.

2. Pray for yourself.

Pray that you will forgive where forgiveness is needed. Pray you will be a child who is supportive and loving and encouraging even unto their last days.

3. Honor the Word.

Do not live a lie before them. You may have a father or mother who has betrayed your family in some way. You may be harboring bitterness or even rage toward this parent. But such hatred truly only hurts you. So work to honor your *parent* by honoring God's *Word* in how you live and in how you treat your family.

If you have found yourself in a similar situation, I pray that you are able to set your heart free, to forgive, and by doing so, you will be following the command of God to honor your father and mother.

Commandment #6: You shall not murder.

Exodus 20:13

I want to spend the rest of our time talking about Commandment #6. I begin here:

God abhors murder. We see this with His response to humanity's first murder.

Genesis 4:8-12



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In the King James Version of the Bible, the 6th Commandment reads:

Thou shall not kill.

Exodus 20:13

The Hebrew word for both murder and kill used by God in the 10 Commandments means:

Murder + Kill / Hebrew / w./ rasah

= premeditated; immoral taking of a human life

Every time this Hebrew words appears in the Old and New Testaments, 47 times in all, the word is never associated with the act of self-defense, the killing of animals, killing in war, or in justice.

Though God does command that you are not to murder, He also states this command just one chapter removed from the 10 Commandments:

Anyone who strikes a person with a fatal blow is to be put to death.

Exodus 21:12

Too, look at:

Numbers 35:17-21

It is important to note that the accidental or involuntary causing of another person's death, deems a slightly lighter penalty. Such an act Scripturally is not grounds for the sentence of death, but we see that the guilty party *was* banished to an appointed place, which Scripture later reveals as "cities of refuge."

Deuteronomy 19:4-7

Deuteronomy 19:11-13

God's law differentiated between a premeditated and immoral taking of a human life and an involuntary killing. But Scripture makes it clear that a premediated murder is wrong and comes with the most strenuous of penalties.

Think back with me for a moment to the global tragedy that happened in Genesis 6.

Genesis 6:5-8

So God flooded the entire earth killing every human except Noah and 7 members of his family. After the waters receded, God clearly articulated to Noah that he would never again destroy the earth with waters. God speaks with Noah and gives him several commands as to how humanity is to eat and re-populate the earth. Interestingly, right in the middle of these commands, God pauses to make a statement about, of all things, murder:

Genesis 9:6

God establishes post the flood a very clear system to protect human life.

Additionally, let us take even a greater step backwards Scripturally. Before all of this happens, God reveals to us in Genesis 2 the most intimate and special and empowering words that He has ever said about you and me. Look at this:

Genesis 1:26-27

In speaking these words, we see just how very precious and valuable life is to God. In reading these words spoken by God in Genesis, we see that, at Creation, God did something that an environmental hypothesis, human evolution, or a big bang, could never, ever, ever accomplish:

God created humans in His image. Thus meaning, we are created like Him. Quickly... go back to Genesis 9:6! Notice what God says is the reason for blood to be shed when one is murdered!

Genesis 9:6

When one commits murder, one does not merely end the life of another.

When one commits murder, one murders what is most like God in all of His creation...

A human.

So... who are we as humans to ever destroy what God says is created just like Him?

Who am I to make this decision?

This is not my decision to make because a life is never mine to take.

King David would later write these words about the precious gift of life and its origin:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalm 139:13-16

And the Prophet Jeremiah wrote:

**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart
Jeremiah 1:5**

Do you hear these words - - eloquent lyrics spoken in Psalm 139? King David very clearly articulates that the womb holds life; life of one yet to be born. Too, the words of the great Prophet Jeremiah?

All human life is exquisite to God. This is why the ending of any life – the elderly, the disabled, the sick, the underprivileged and the unborn is so grievous and egregious to God.

Murder, in any form, is a tantamount assault on Creation, and its greatest offense, an incursion on the Creator of life.

A human, created in the image of God, has no authority to supersede God in unjustly ending the life of another. No matter the circumstance.

So... where does this leave us with capital punishment – the death penalty. This is a much debated topic, even among the Church. Too, I presume there are a variety of opinions even here in this room.

And too, there is so very much that could be said about it for which we do not have time to solely commit today. Now, thus far in our study today, Scripture has pretty much answered this question for us.

However, let me offer a few personal thoughts. First, as I have shared previously, through the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, we see where God elaborates often on the 10 Commandments He gave to His people in Exodus 20.

And a deeper read would reveal to us that He did exactly this when speaking in greater detail into Commandment #6:

**You shall not murder.
Exodus 20:13**

In the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and even 2nd Samuel, we read where the death penalty was instituted for murder, and too, for kidnapping, bestiality, adultery, homosexuality, false teaching, prostitution, and rape.

I have thought about this for a very long time over this past month. Church, I believe the greatest example that we see of a God in support in the *New Testament* of this law He established in the *Old Testament* is the story of which we all are so very familiar; it is *the* story of *all* stories in the Holy Scriptures; it the story of life change offered to every one of us.

This story to which I refer is actually recorded, as some would say, as the most popular verse:

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16**

You see, Scripture tells us that sin equals death. And, it only takes one sin!

God gave His Son Jesus as a punishment for your sin because the standard God has established for you is the same standard He has established for Himself; for His Son.

Death must be remedied by death.

**The wages of sin is death.
Romans 6:23**

**He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
1 Peter 2:24**

What we view through the fullness of Scripture is that humans are so incredibly significant and wonderful and unique that there is a time when, a life is taken, and the only way to settle the account and uphold the dignity of a murdered human life is to take the life of the murderer. This is clearly a message we see in Scripture.

Now, does this mean we *always* end the life of one who murders? No, because we do not see this pattern in Scripture. Instead, in Scripture see that there are times when mercy is offered rather than death. One such instance - King David. He committed murder, yet God spared his life:

Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

**Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.
2 Samuel 12:13**

Therefore, does this mean we *never* end the life of one who murders? No, because we do not see this pattern in Scripture either.

There are times in Scripture where we see that a life is to be taken for a life. Additionally there are times in Scripture when we see that grace is to be exercised. Well, Pastor... how do we know when to exercise a penalty? Church herein lies the great hardship for humanity:

How do we *hear, know and exercise* the will of God when we as a people do not fully *pursue* the will of God?

You see... in second Samuel, when David was offered grace, he was done so through the revealing of God's will through a man of God, Nathan. Nathan's heart was attuned to God's voice and leading in that situation. What this tells me is that we need God's voice to clearly articulate to us in our decision-making over all decisions, especially life and death.

You see, we *know* God's ways, but we live in a world often caring less to *follow* His ways. So we find ourselves immersed in quite the quandary...

We desire justice. Yet, we fail to adhere to the ways and wisdom and Word of the only One worthy to proclaim such justice – the great and almighty Judge who ultimately resides over our very lives.

How do we make decisions based upon God's wisdom and will when, in full disclosure, we are a humanity immensely failing the full pursuit of God's wisdom and will?

Church we clearly see that in God's Word and through God's laws there are clearly defined parameters for when a life should be taken for a life. I pray we continue to seek His will to help us define all areas *in* and *by* and *which* man should adhere and live.

From man's perspective, murder is the act of taking the innocent life of another. Yet, within this scope, we must too reconcile to the truth that, to God, murder truly begins in the heart.

Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

1 John 3:15

91% of men and 84% of women have experienced thoughts of killing someone.

And 100% of women who have a husband who snores have thoughts of killing him!

Seriously... God defines the *thought* of murder in the exact same way as the *act* of murder. And He says that both originate in the heart:

For out of the heart come evil thoughts - murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Matthew 15:19