

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; **and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.**’ ²² **But I say to you** that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and/(but) whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 5:20

For I tell you, *unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus Came to Fulfill the Law:

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Main Idea

Jesus purchases us back from our murderous hatred, paying the price with his own blood. He is our High Priest who dies in our place so we can have our life back. In Christ, we have loved, are learning to love, and will finally have our love for our brothers perfected!

Follow Jesus:

Romans 13:8–9

⁸ *Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.* ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#45] (Numbers 26–36) *A Heart Turned Towards the Inheritance: Part 15, Jesus Rescues Murderers* – Numbers 35

Sermon Outline – May 22, 2016

Children's Sermon: Murderers?!

Who was the first murderer?

What did Cain say to God after murdering his brother?

What is the answer?

Romans 13:9–10 (HCSB)

⁹ The commandments: **Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not covet;** and whatever other commandment—all are summed up by this: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor. *Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law.*

Follow-Up: Positive & Negative Law

Lessons in God's Justice & Mercy

Notes:

Levi's Inheritance

Levi Cursed (For Murder)

Genesis 49:7

Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel. (Cf. Genesis 34:25)

“This curse was indeed effective: both the tribes of Simeon and of Levi were scattered in Israel.”¹

Levi Blessed (the Golden Calf; For Performing Executions...)

Exodus 32:29

And Moses said, “Today you have been ordained for the service of the LORD, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow *a blessing* upon you this day.”

Levi Scattered...And Blessed...And a Blessing...

“Yet whereas the tribe of Simeon was scattered and ultimately largely absorbed into Judah, the tribe of Levi retained its integrity as a tribe, even while being scattered. They remained a distinct

¹ Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 357). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

group with distinct tasks. Even after their work of carrying and guarding the tabernacle through the wilderness was complete, they still remained a tribe especially devoted to the Lord: they were assigned the new tasks of helping the people understand the Law, and when Solomon's temple was built, they were responsible for guarding it and for leading the people in the praise of God. Compared to the fate of the tribe of Simeon, their scattering throughout the land was indeed a blessing. ...

The Levites' absence of an earthly inheritance was always intended to force them to recognize that the Lord himself was their inheritance."¹

Cities of Refuge

⁶ "The cities that you give to the Levites shall be *the six cities of refuge*, where you shall permit the manslayer to flee, and in addition to them you shall give forty-two cities.

[Review *Hermeneutics* – Principles to Help Us Understand the Bible

- Put On Your Jesus Goggles (Cf. **2 Cor. 5:17** – "new creation")
- Understand Where You Are in Salvation History
- Ceremonial (Sacrifice), Moral (Murder), Civil (Stoning)
- Understanding the 3 Uses of the Law

1 Timothy 1:9

...*the law is* not laid down for the just but *for the lawless* and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, *for murderers*... (Cf. 1. Romans 13:4; 2. Galatians 3:24)

3. 2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for *training in righteousness*...]

The Value of Human Life

- A Just Process (Cities of Refuge)

³⁰ "If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death *on the evidence of witnesses*. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

- A Just Judgment
 - Murder vs. Manslaughter/"Manslayer" (Intent)
 - The Death Penalty (Vertical Justice)

³¹ Moreover, *you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer*, who is guilty of death, but *he shall be put to death*. ... ³³ You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. ³⁴ You shall not defile the land in which you live, *in the midst of which I dwell, for I the LORD dwell in the midst* of the people of Israel.

- The Death of the High Priest (From Hate to Love)

²⁶ But if *the manslayer shall at any time go beyond the boundaries of his city of refuge* to which he fled, ²⁷ and the avenger of blood finds him outside the boundaries of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood.

³² And *you shall accept no ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge*, that he may return to dwell in the land *before the death of the high priest*.

- Horizontal Justice

¹⁹ The *avenger* of blood shall himself put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.

The Avenger/Kinsman Redeemer

"He was also the person who had a duty to buy family members back if they became so poor that they had to sell themselves into slavery (Leviticus 25:48) or to marry the widow of a kinsman who had died without an heir so his name would not be extinguished from the clan records (Ruth 3:13). In other words, the *gō'ēl* was the person in the family responsible to look out for his kinsman's interests, at whatever personal cost."²

Jesus Rescues Murderers & Manslayers

Main Idea

Jesus is the avenger of blood but also our kinsman redeemer, our city of refuge, and our high priest.

Why Should We Care About the Rescue of Murderers?

Because We Are Murderers (Restrain, School...)

Matthew 5:21–22

² Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 359). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.