— Exodus 20.13 —
Exodus Series 36
The Sixth Word

Ex 20 [13] "You shall not murder."

►**When we** hear the sixth word, we think of homicide – the wrongful taking of a _____ human life – which is a sin and a crime, and can warrant the death penalty.

> Gn 9 [6] "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."

What we often miss is that the sixth word also forbids as sin everything that leads up to homicide, which is the fully ripened _____ of the murder tree. The sixth word condemns the whole _____, roots and all.

> Mt 22 [39] "[T]he second [greatest commandment] is … 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " *(Quoting Lv 19.18).*

> Lv 19 [16] "You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.
>
> [17] You shall not hate your brother in your heart.
>
> You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.
>
> [18] You shall not take vengeance,
>
> nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

►**Lesson #1:** We are _____ ministering life or death to our neighbor (Lv 19.16, 18).

►**Lesson #2:** The only way to love our neighbor as ourself is to detect and destroy the murder tree as soon as it starts to take _____ in our hearts. The root of the murder tree is _____ our brother in our heart or bearing a _____ against him (Lv 19.17, 18).

● Hating our brother in our heart or bearing a grudge against him means: 1) We seek his _____, not his blessing; 2) We keep a _____ of wrongs, which we keep _____, instead of seeking reconciliation (17-18).

►**Lesson #3:** Loving our neighbor as ourself necessarily means _____ to reconcile with him (18). "Rebuke" in Lv 19.7 is better rendered "decide" or "adjudge." Going _____ to your brother to sort out the facts, adjudge the matter together, then seek and/or receive forgiveness is what is contemplated.

● We must be like _____, who reconciled us to himself.

> 2Cor 5 [19] God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them

"Imputing" is an accounting word meaning to add up a balance sheet, which for us, apart from Christ, would be a mile long list of sin _____ we cannot pay. God had a perfectly accurate accounting of all our sins. What he did _____ do was to keep _____ them up. If he had done that, he never would have sent his _____ to reconcile us to himself.

● God calls the _____ the "word of reconciliation," and he has committed that word to us as his co-_____.

> 2Cor 5 [19] God … has committed to us the word of reconciliation
>
> Rm 2 [21] You … who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

● We must not _____ for our brother to come to us. If we truly _____ reconciliation, we will _____ the initiative, whether we are the offender, the offendee, or both.

> Rm 5 [10] [W]hen we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son
>
> Mt 18 [15] "[I]f your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother."
>
> Mt 5 [23] "[I]f you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

● It's not that reconciliation is more important than worship; it's that reconciliation _____ worship.

►**Lesson #4:** If we do not seek reconciliation with our brother, we will end up nursing a grudge and taking some form of _____ against him, in which case God will not _____ on our behalf.

> Dt 32 [35] "Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time."
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> 1Sam 24 [11] "[S]ee the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. [12] Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you."
>
> 1Kgs 8 [32] "[H]ear in heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness."

● One of the easiest, most harmful forms of vengeance is _____ (Lv 19.16), which includes circulating _____ that should be kept secret among those who have a _____ to know, because they are part of either the problem or the solution.

> Ex 23 [1] You shall not circulate a false report *[i.e., slander]*.
>
> Pr 11 [13] A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.
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> Pr 18 [8] The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.
>
> Pr 16 [28] [A] whisperer separates the best of friends.
>
> Pr 6 [16] These … things the LORD hates …: [O]ne who sows discord among brethren.
>
> Pr 26 [20] Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.

● A person's good _____ is one of the most valuable things they have. Tarnishing their name is standing against their _____ (Lv 19.16).

> Pr 22 [1] A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches

● Even when we have an offense against our brother, we still have a duty to protect his _____ and his _____.

> Ex 23 [4] "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. [5] If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it."

● When your brother has become your enemy and will not reconcile, you must "overcome evil with _____" by doing good to your neighbor, and so cooperating with the LORD according to his ways.

> Rm 12 [19] "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," say the LORD. [20] Therefore, "If your enemy is hungry feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. *(Quoting Dt 32.35; Pr 25.21-22)*.