

### James 4:1-4

<sup>1</sup>What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

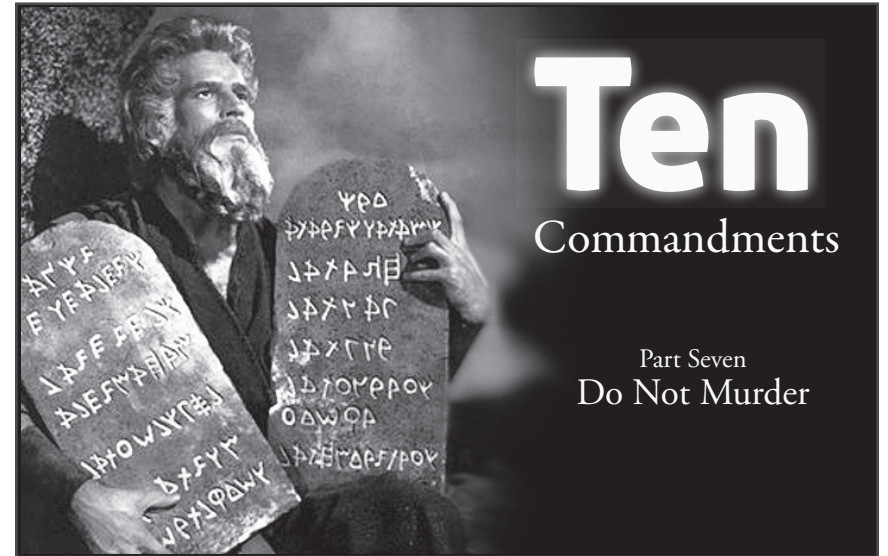
**Comment:** If the gospel of Jesus is the gospel I am pursuing then it should be moving me towards his likeness. James was more than moved by Jesus he was transformed by Jesus. James shrank while Christ grew and I need to do the same.

James pleads with the me to remain focused on the gospel, not the world. He pleads with me to avoid getting caught up in anger that leaves me faithless, coveting that leaves me no hope, and pride that kills my ability to love. Instead, I should be consumed by the Gospel message that cultivates a heart aware of his grace; overwhelmed by his love; bruised by his death; rejoicing in his hope.

### Suggested Questions for Small Groups

1. What lesson did you take from the sermon this week, what was your main takeaway?
2. How have you wrestled through the questions of God's sovereignty? What do you make of the killings commanded by God in the Old Testament?
3. Do you understand the relationship between anger and murder that Jesus is trying to make? How would you articulate this for someone else?
4. Have you ever viewed yourself as a contributing murderer of Jesus? What are the implications for being a part of his need to be sacrificed?
5. How does Jesus forgiveness of our transgressions against him make you feel? How does it move you?
6. What would you hope seen changed in your life in how you interact with others because of these truths?

Next Sunday, June 6th, 2010: Senior Sunday  
Worship led by our High School Youth



### This Morning Scripture Reading ~ Genesis 9:6-17

<sup>6</sup> “Whoever sheds the blood of man,  
by man shall his blood be shed,  
for God made man in his own image.

<sup>7</sup>And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it.”  
<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

## SIXTH COMMANDMENT: DO NOT MURDER

Exodus 20:13; Deut. 5:17

### I. Life is a sacred gift from God.

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.  
~ James 1:17

<sup>5</sup> And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

<sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds the blood of man,  
by man shall his blood be shed,  
for God made man in his own image.

<sup>7</sup> And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it."

### II. God defines the difference between killing and murder.

Killing is ...

1. **Self-Defense** (Neh. 4:17-18; Ex. 22:2)
2. **War** (Josh. 6:17; Deut. 20:10-15; Ps. 140:1-2; no war Deut. 1:41-42)
3. **Capital Punishment** (Gen. 9:6; Josh 7:15, 25)

Murder is ...

1. **Premeditate Killing** -- the act of killing a person with the state of mind to purposefully kill him/her (Ex. 21:12)
2. **Manslaughter** -- unintentional killing of another (Ex. 35:11)

Modern Day Debate Examples ...

1. **Abortion** (Psalm 139)
2. **Euthanasia** (Job 30:23; Ecc. 8:8; Rom. 5:3)
3. **Suicide** (Jer. 29:11; Rom. 6:23; John 8:44)

### III. Murder and anger are windows pointing to our guilt before God.

<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> 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 whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. ~ Matt. 5:21-22

### IV. Jesus is victor over murder, we have victory in Christ.

<sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ~ Acts 2:22-24; 37-42

### V. The Gospel makes us aware that ...

**a. Grace replaces Revenge. (Rom. 8:28, James 1:2-4)**

**b. Patience replaces Rage. (Rom. 12:19; 1 Peter 2:23)**

**c. Faith replaces Pride. (1 Peter 5:9; 1 Peter 1:7; James 1:2-4; Heb. 1:1; Heb. 12:2)**