

# **RULES TO LIVE BY!**

## **7. Do Not Murder**



### **Introduction**

Today we are going to look at the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment, which is the first of four commands that deal with our relationships with one another.

### **Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:17**

- ❶ Why is murder such a wicked thing in God's sight? Genesis 4:10-12, 9:5-6
- ❷ What was the punishment for murder under the law, and what was God's provision for those who killed someone accidentally? See Leviticus 24:17, Deuteronomy 19:4-7, 10

Jesus spoke about this law, 'Do not murder' in Matthew 5:21-26 and helps us understand the 'spirit of the law' that God had given.

- ❸ What fresh understanding does Jesus give on this law in these verses?

Jesus goes on to say that if anyone said 'raca' to his brother he could be taken to the Sanhedrin, which is like a religious court. This was a word people used in those days to show they despised another. However Jesus adds to that, and says that even if you called someone a 'fool' it would bring God's judgment. To call someone a fool criticized a person's character and reputation.

- ❹ Why do you think people despise or look down on others, and why does Jesus include this in the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment?
- ❺ How can we put things right if we know someone has been offended by something we have done or said that was wrong?
- ❻ Have you ever been in a situation where you have had to put something right with another person? Share your experience.

### **Conclusion**

The law that God gave to Moses was written on tablets of stone, and mostly dealt with a person's actions. God knew that the law could never change our hearts, and so He promised that He would send His Spirit, so that the law could be in our hearts and He could empower us to obey it.

God doesn't only see the outward actions of a person, but He sees the heart, and so Jesus explained the true meaning of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment. It is not only murder that is wrong, but it is wrong to allow anger to grow in your heart and use words and insults to destroy another person.

Is there anyone we have spoken to wrongly that we need to settle things with? Let's respond to God's Word today, so that our worship is acceptable to Him.