



Eradicating Murder By Its Roots

“Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment” (Matthew 5:21).

“Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire” (Matthew 5:21-22).

Murder is the unlawful termination of a person's life. There could be many reasons people may have for murder but none of it is acceptable to God because:

- 1) No one can create life, and therefore no one has the right to take it.
- 2) It deprives the subject of the opportunity to contribute his / her quota to life for the benefit of humanity.
- 3) It robs the world of the potentials of that life.
- 4) It potentially could alter the destiny of the subject. The murderer will be held responsible for such by God.
- 5) It attempts to enthrone man as God, who alone has the right to take life, when He deems it appropriate.

In expounding His teaching, Jesus not only appeal to the external outward actions of murder but goes beyond to the root causes, equating them to the outward physical action. The principle is that where the root is present, it is only a matter of either time or the right opportunity before the shoot springs forth. Destroy the root and you destroy the prospect for the outward physical action. Hebrews 12:15 admonishes “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled”. These roots have to do with the state of the mind and the words of the mouth. The two are linked as Jesus pointed out in Luke 6:45 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart

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bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh”. Thoughts are powerful. Proverbs 24:9 points out that “The thought of foolishness is sin” - implying that the commission of sin takes place first in the heart before the physical act materialises in reality. It is similar to the process of formation of human being - the child is first formed in the womb months before he or she is physically given birth to. Whether in the womb or after birth, the offspring is still a human being.

The three roots that are equivalent to acts of murder that Jesus pointed out are:

- 1) “whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment”
- 2) “whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council”
- 3) “whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire”.

Note that all three are in danger with similar consequences - judgment, council or hell fire.

This highlight that God's standard under grace are much higher than those under the law, because grace empowers Christians to do what the law could not do. It also confirm that contrary to the beliefs of many, grace is not a license for sin, but liberation from the very root of evil.

Every one ought to rise up to the challenge of the revelation in this exposition by determining to conquer murder by destroying its seeds in the heart and mouth, as this robs it of the opportunity for physical manifestation under the right circumstances.

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