

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Matthew 5:17-26, 43-48  
**Singing:** 242:1-4 – 68:2, 4 – 24:1-3 – 305:1, 3, 5 – 435:1, 7, 9

### **OUR CREATOR IS ALSO OUR PRESERVER AND PROTECTOR OF LIFE**

A. None values our life as much as He does!

1. consider His command in Deut. 20:10-11 & 19-20

B. None defined ‘murder’ as Jesus did: Matt. 5:21-24

1. God’s commandments are exceeding broad – deep in detail

a. Jesus’ exposition exposes the *hidden murders*

### **THE HIDDEN MURDERS OF OUR NEIGHBORS**

A. Not loving our needy neighbors is considered a *hidden murder* (Lk 10:36)

B. Not protecting our neighbor’s *inner being or spirit* is hidden murder

1. HCat: *not only does God forbid murder but also any word, gesture by which I dishonor or wound my neighbor*

a. people don’t only have ‘nerve endings in the skin’

b. God’s will to *love your neighbor* is to *nourish his/her inner spirit*

● we do that by *speech that ministers grace* (Eph. 4:29)

● we do that by *actions that lead instead of coerce others*  
- domestic abuse is *the oppression of a spouse in which one seeks to control and dominate the other through a pattern of coercive, controlling and punishing behaviors*

c. our Creator calls us to *protect and nourish the spirit of children*

● parenting is *admonition (teaching the mind) and nurture (feeding the inner spirit)*

● this is opposite of *angering – belittling – crushing*

-

d. Jesus commands us to *not murder visitors in church* (James 2)

2. Forgiveness removes *guilt* but not the *scars*

C. Nursing the elements of a murderer spirit is *hidden murder*

1. HCat expounds deepest layer of breaking the 6<sup>th</sup>

a. *In forbidding murder, God teaches us that He abhors the causes therefore, such as envy, hatred, anger, and desire of revenge; and that He accounts all these as murder.*

b. these toxic elements always begin small but take control

- *intentional and unintentional sin happen in this world*

- *if not detoxed agitated feelings and wrong impressions may grow into 'hidden murders' (Eph 4:15 -32)*

- *therefore, Jesus commands us to deal with it before the devil blows a spark into a full blaze (Eph. 4:25-27)  
- also Rom. 12:18ff, Matt. 5:22-26; Luke 17:1-4*

- *if not resolvable, commit it to God in faith: Rom. 12:19; 1 Peter 2:21-23*

D. The 6<sup>th</sup> doesn't only forbid: *it commands us to actively nurture life*

1. Consider how Jesus *fulfilled* the 6<sup>th</sup> His lifetime

a. He went about *doing good to all men placed before Him*

2. Often re-read the 6<sup>th</sup> with the question: *How am I to reflect God's loving concern and devotion for all life He has created?*

a. *view all neighbors with charitable thoughts*

b. *act love and compassion toward all neighbors*

c. *approach all in meekness, gentleness and kindness*

d. *exercise forbearance – patience (as God does with you)*

3. How?

*But we all with open face beholding  
as in a glass the glory of the Lord,  
are changed into the same image from glory to glory,  
even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

2 Cor. 3:18