



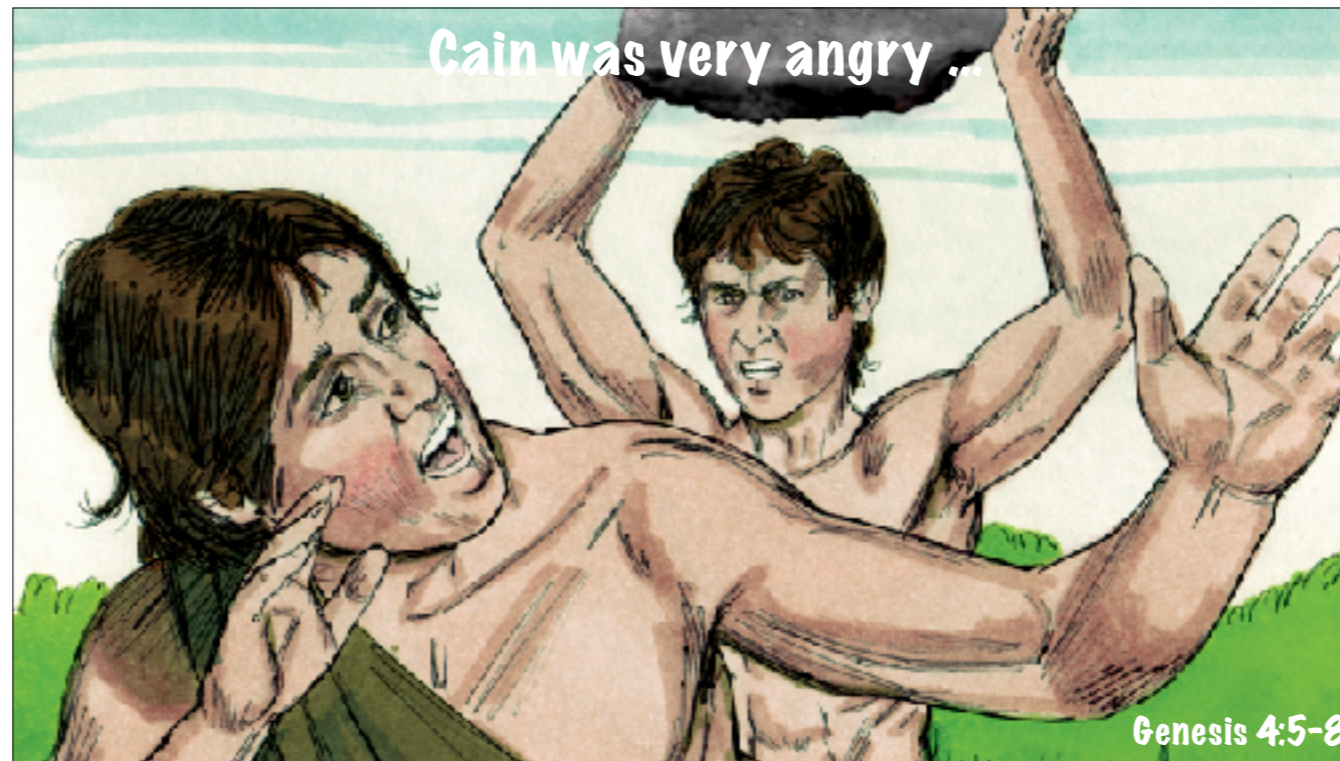
- Matthew 5:21-26



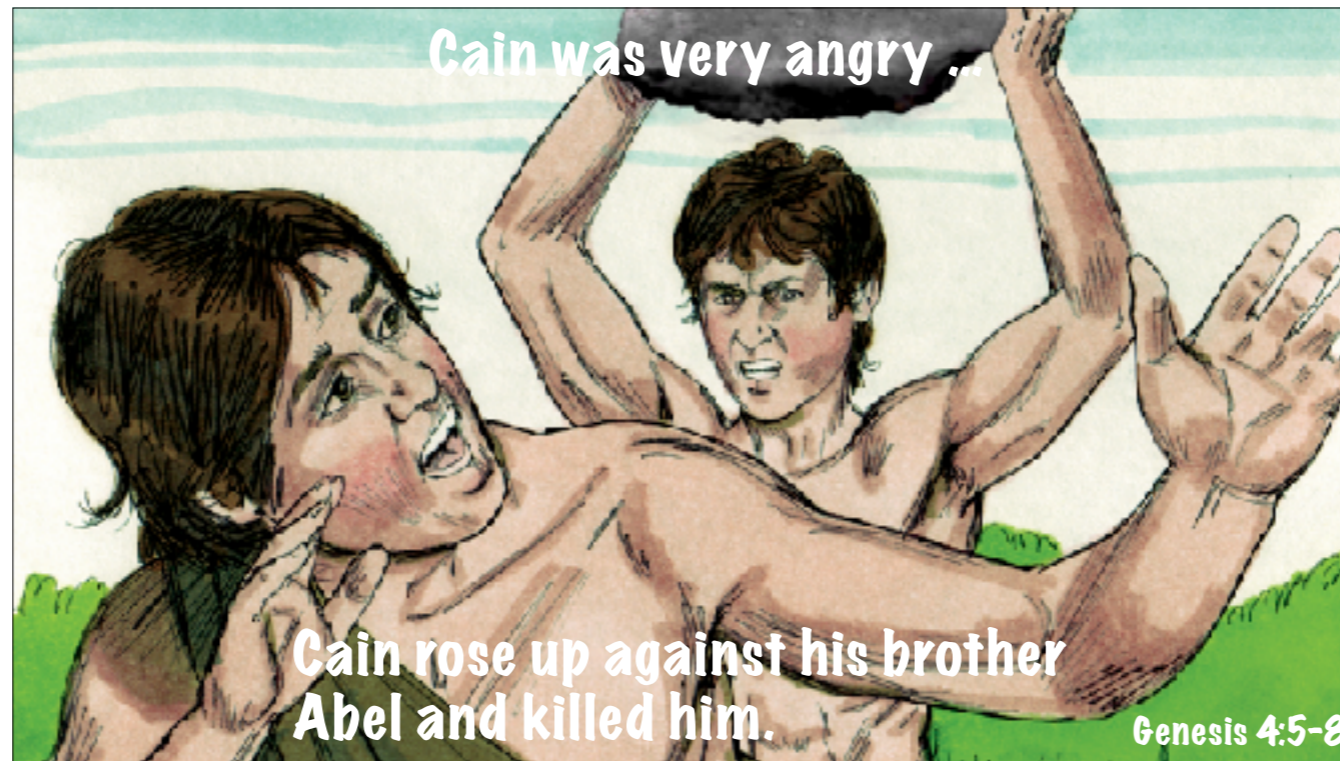
**then Jehovah God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.**

**Genesis 2:7**

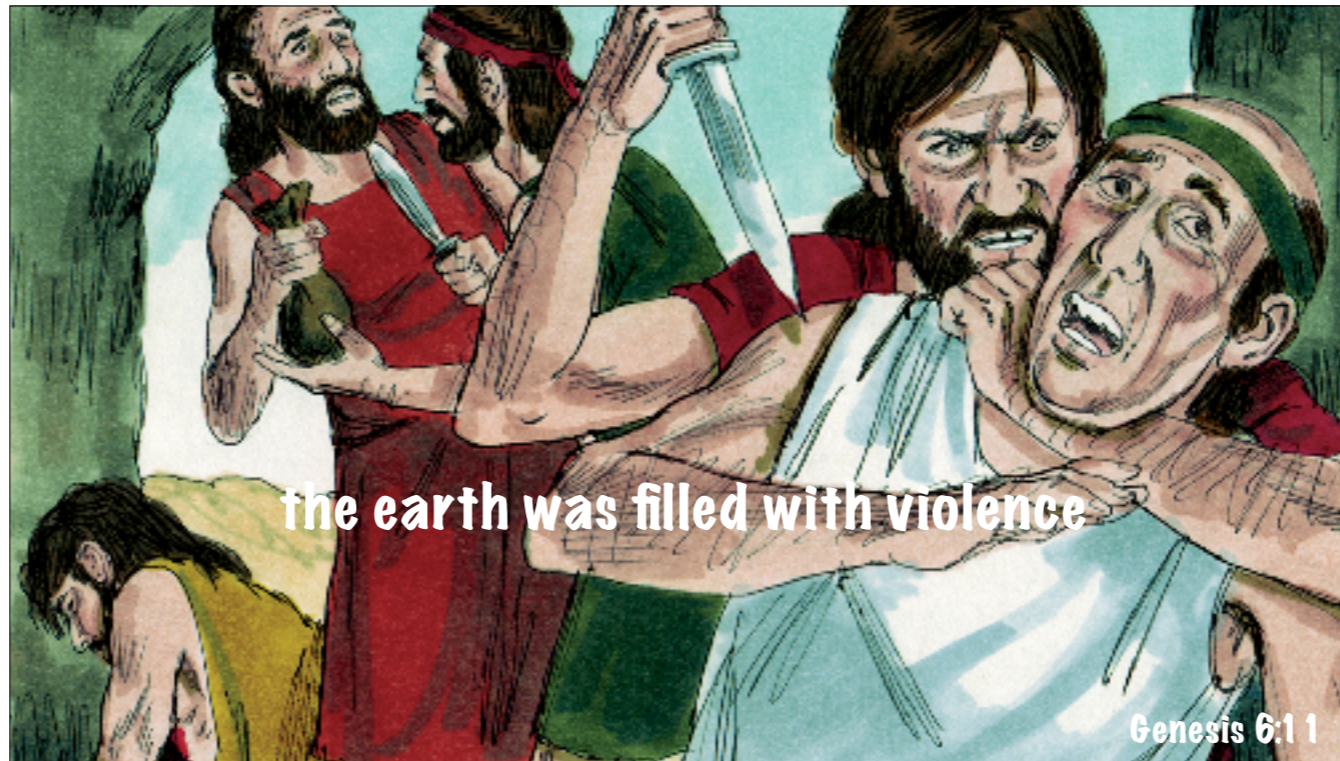
- Third day: plants
- Fifth day: sea creatures and birds
- Sixth day: live stock, beasts, crawling things
- Genesis 2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.



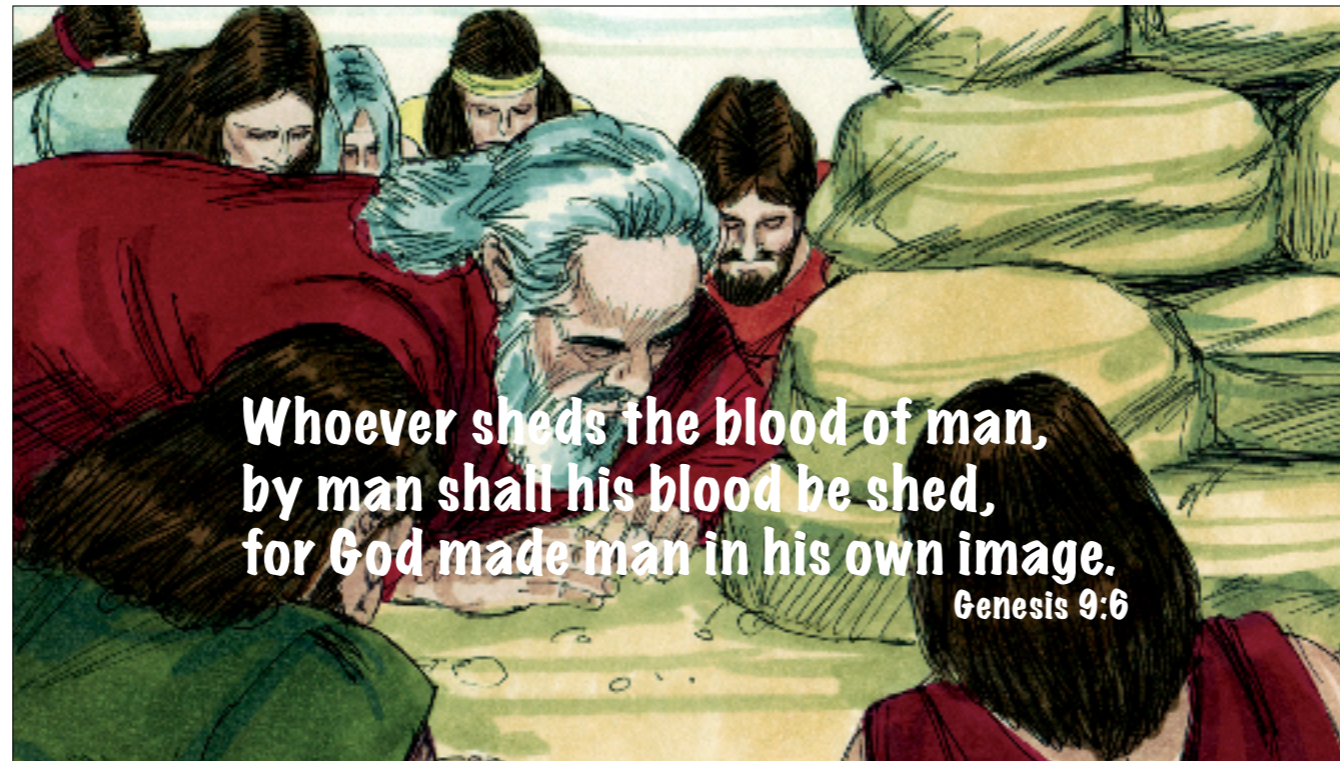
- Genesis 4:5-8: but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. 6 The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? **And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.**”



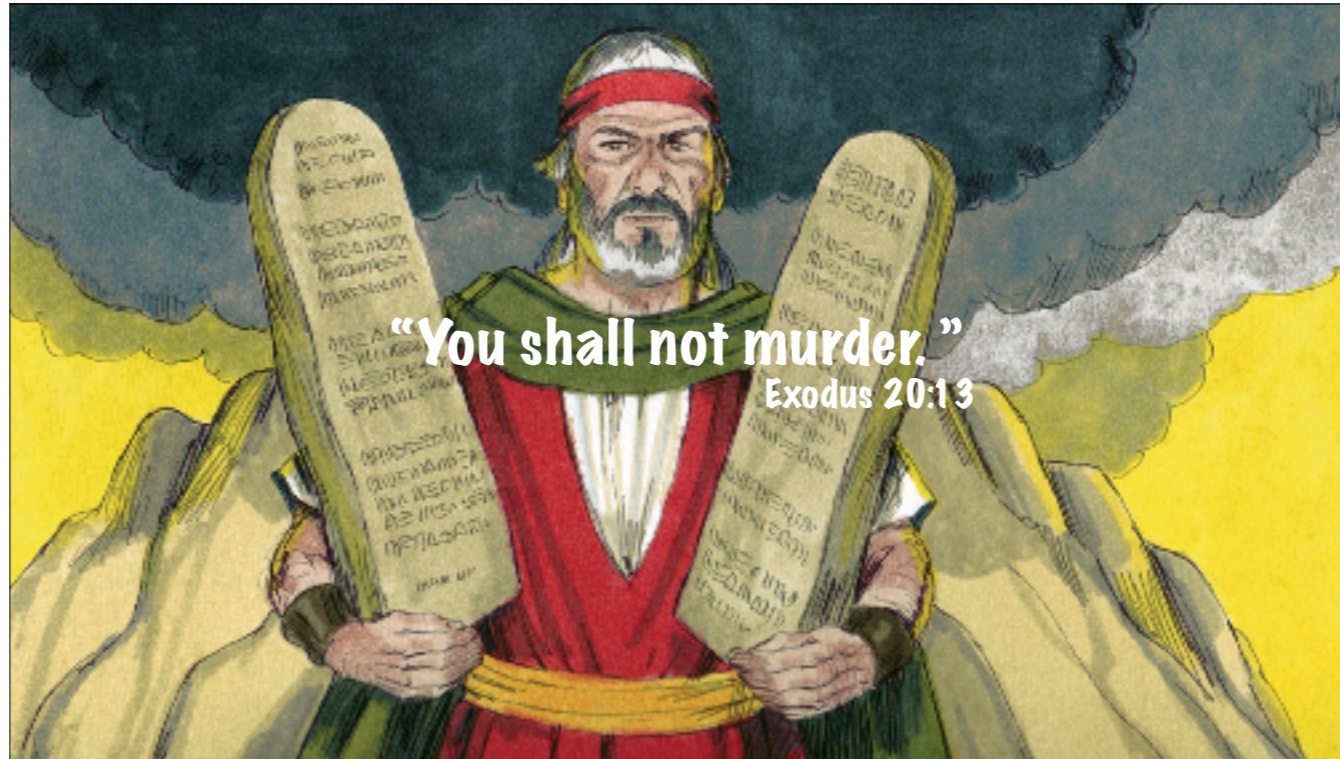
- Genesis 4:5-8: 8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.



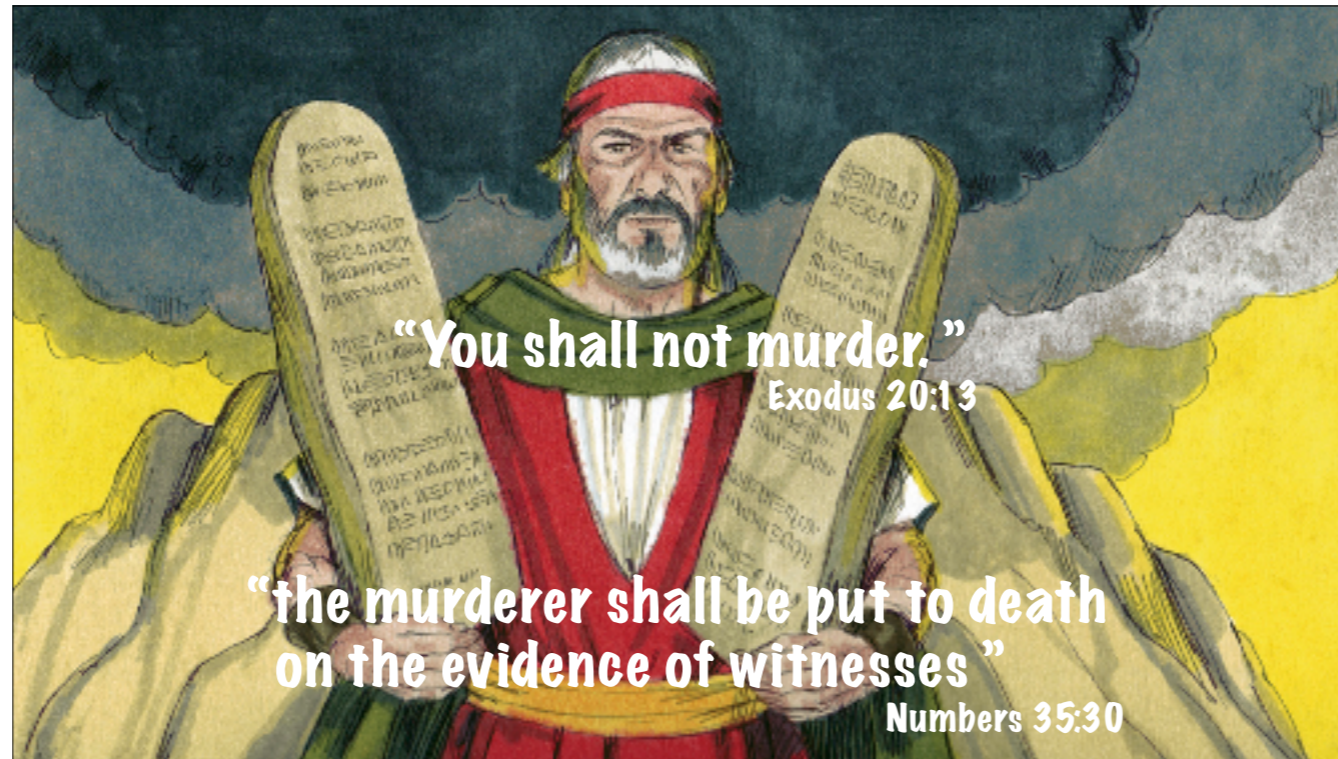
- Genesis 6:11-12 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.
- Genesis 6:13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.



- Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."



- Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder."
- Exodus 21:12-14 "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. 13 But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. 14 But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die."



- Numbers 35:30-34: “If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. 31 Moreover, you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer, who is guilty of death, but he shall be put to death. 32 And you shall accept no ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the high priest. 33 You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. 34 You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the Lord dwell in the midst of the people of Israel.”



## Exceeding Righteousness

**You shall not murder,  
& whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment**

**You shall not commit adultery  
& whoever divorces wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce**

- Exceeding Righteousness
- Five statements -- One underlying principle (focus): true righteousness
  - You shall not murder and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment
  - You shall not commit adultery. & Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.

## Exceeding Righteousness

**You shall not murder,  
& whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment**

**You shall not commit adultery  
& whoever divorces wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce**

**You shall not swear falsely,  
but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn**

**An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth**

**You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy**

- You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.
- An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.
- You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
- Not only important commands in law...
- but how we interact with one another daily.

# Exceeding Righteousness

Law

**“You have heard  
that it was said  
to those of old”**  
(inferences of the Scribes & Pharisees)

- There is the law, as given to Moses
- “You have heard that it was said to those of old...”
  - incorrect inferences of the law by the S&P
    - When Jesus quotes Moses: “It is written...”
    - Jesus was not here to correct law, but fulfill it

## Exceeding Righteousness

Law

**“You have heard  
that it was said  
to those of old”**  
(inferences of the Scribes & Pharisees)

**“But I say to you”**

- “But I say to you...”
  - His teaching is ultimately different from the teaching of the Pharisees.
  - An expression of his unquestionable authority
    - not as a teacher, prophet
    - rather as someone who knew the Law - as the Law-Giver
    - an expression of His Deity (equivalent to “It is written”?)

## Exceeding Righteousness

Law

**"You have heard  
that it was said  
to those of old"**  
(inferences of the Scribes & Pharisees)

**"But I say to you"**

- Overthrowing erroneous traditions
- Indicating the real intent of the Old Law
  - Conformity to Law not just actions only (WHAT I DO)
  - thoughts, motives, desires are equally important (WHY I OBEY)
  - Just as concerned with what leads to action as action.
  - But more.... am I acting with the same Character as my Heavenly Father? (WHO I AM)

# Exceeding Righteousness

Law



**"You shall not murder."**  
Exodus 20:13

- Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder."

## Exceeding Righteousness

Law



**"You shall not murder."**  
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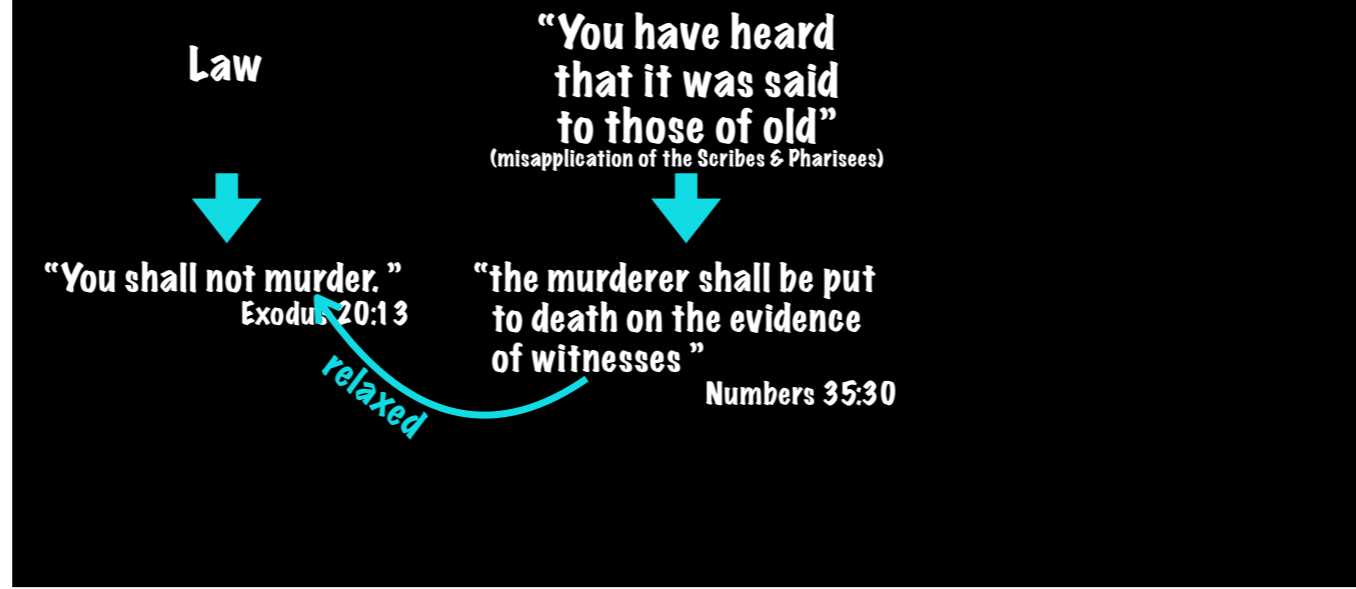
**"You have heard  
that it was said  
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(misapplication of the Scribes & Pharisees)



**"the murderer shall be put  
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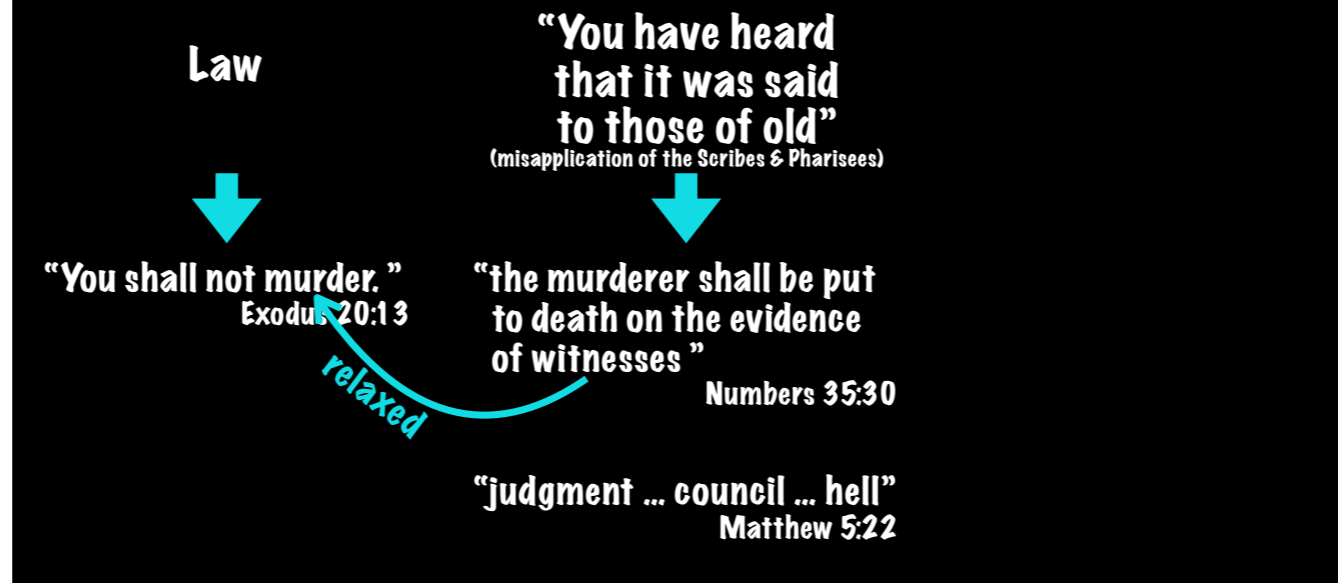
# Exceeding Righteousness



- What's wrong? Pharisees juxtaposed two, reduced import of "you shall not murder": weakened the whole injunction.
  - If they refrained from the act of murder, spilling blood, then they considered that they had kept the commandment.

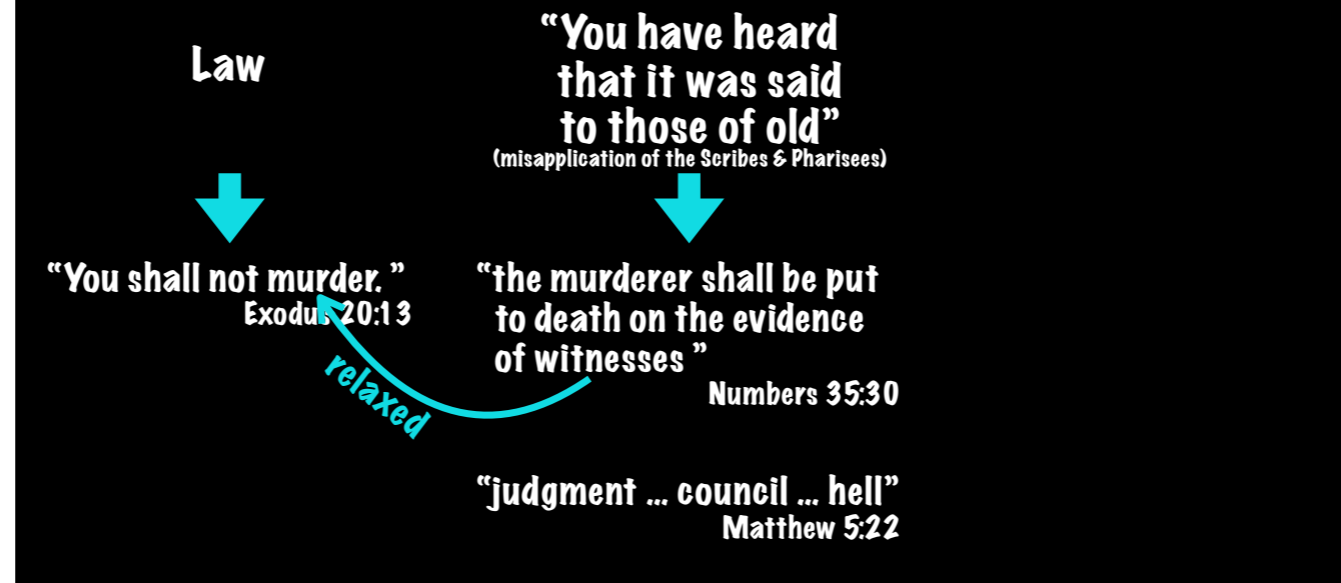


# Exceeding Righteousness



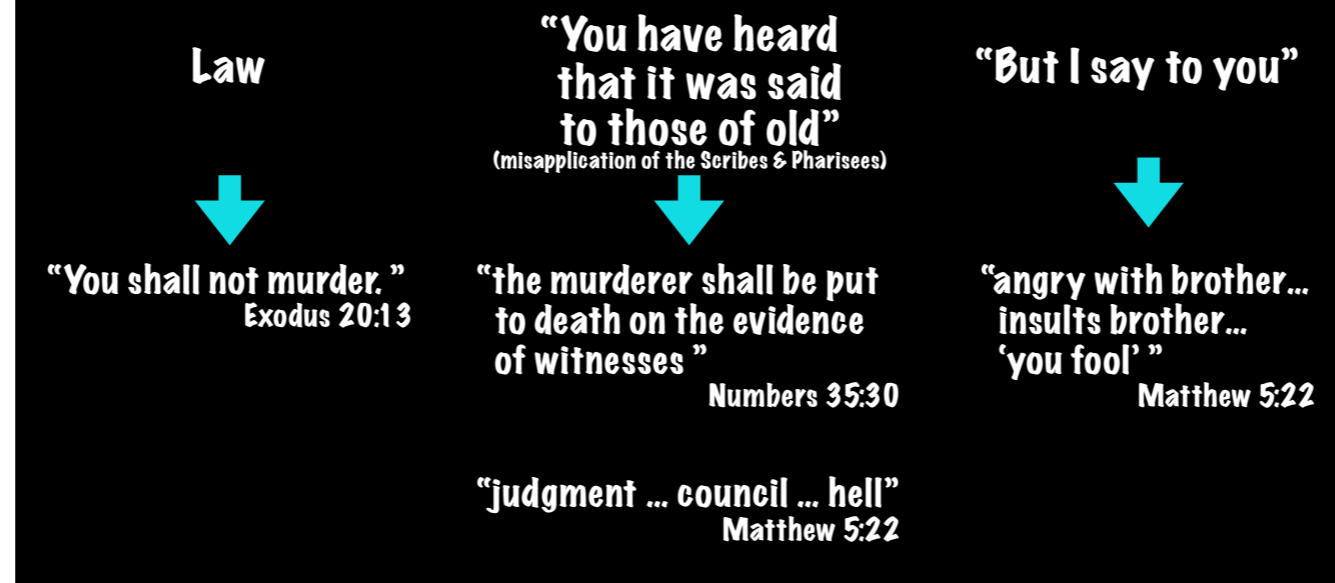
- judgment: civil vs. God (not mentioned)
  - taught people to fear civil punishment
  - relaxing the commandment!
- reduced and confined law, so that it was not God's law

# Exceeding Righteousness



- Do we do the same? Interpret and define His law by pushing passages together?
  - Making it something easy for us, keep negatively, and all is well?
  - Consider the intricacies of some of our arguments, where is the emphasis?
    - my inferences > God's commands!
    - Law, obedience

## Exceeding Righteousness



- The Heart of the Matter

- Anger

- orgizo: to provoke, arouse to anger. A smoldering anger.
    - Jesus relates anger to murder: How you treat others
    - anger in heart is just as reprehensible as murder.
    - Do you think of yourself as being far removed from murderers, but have you been angry at another?

# Exceeding Righteousness

Law



**"You shall not murder."**  
Exodus 20:13

**"You have heard  
that it was said  
to those of old"**  
(misapplication of the Scribes & Pharisees)



**"the murderer shall be put  
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Numbers 35:30

**"But I say to you"**

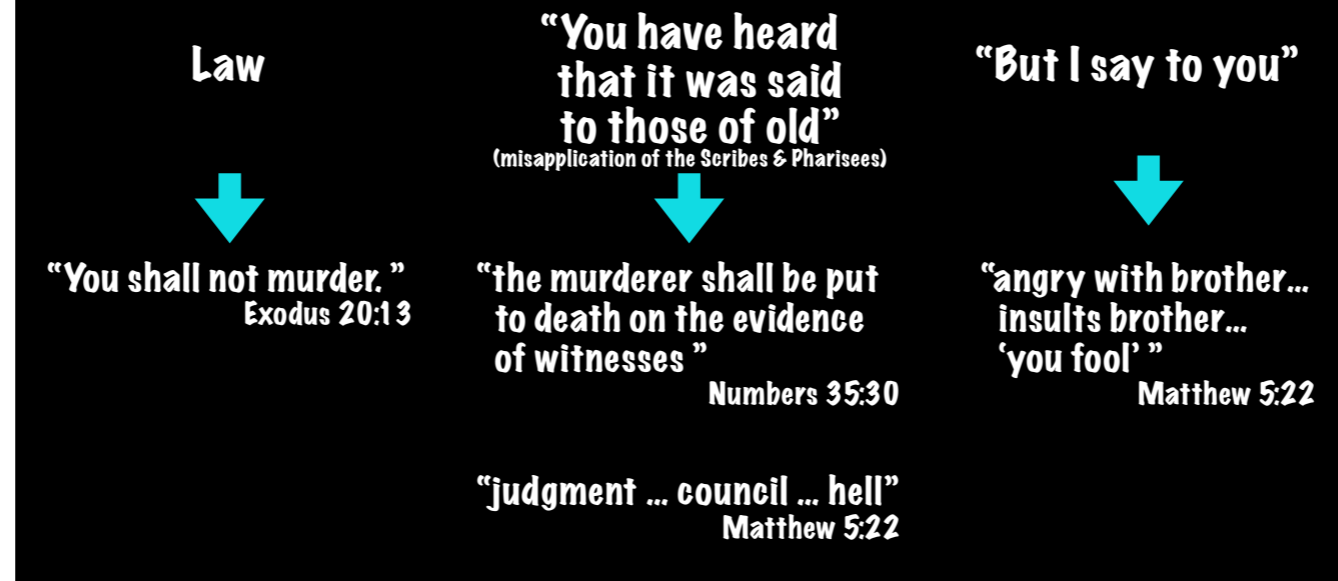


**"angry with brother...  
insults brother...  
'you fool'"**  
Matthew 5:22

**"judgment ... council ... hell"**  
Matthew 5:22

- Insults (Say to brother: "Raca")
  - empty, ie a senseless, empty-headed man.
  - expression of contempt, feeling of scorn and derision: leads to murder ultimately.
  - devaluing the worth of another

# Exceeding Righteousness



- Says, "You Fool"
  - vilifying; an immoral, uncaring individual
  - can destroy men, short of murder:
    - reputation
    - other's confidence in him by whispered criticism or fault-finding
- Consequence: not just from men, but God's judgment (equal)

## Dealing with Anger Correctly

**Remember your brother  
has something against you**



**First be reconciled  
to your brother**

**Come to terms quickly with your accuser**

- Matthew 5:23-26: So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

## Dealing with Anger Correctly

Remember your brother  
has something against you



First be reconciled  
to your brother

Come to terms quickly with your accuser

- Two examples: a brother, an enemy
  - since anger and contempt are so serious and dangerous,
  - we must not only avoid them, but
  - immediately rectify: take action NOW
  - the urgency of personal **reconciliation**
  - God's words to Cain in Gen. 4
    - 7: If you do well, will you not be accepted? **And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.**"

## Dealing with Anger Correctly

**Remember your brother  
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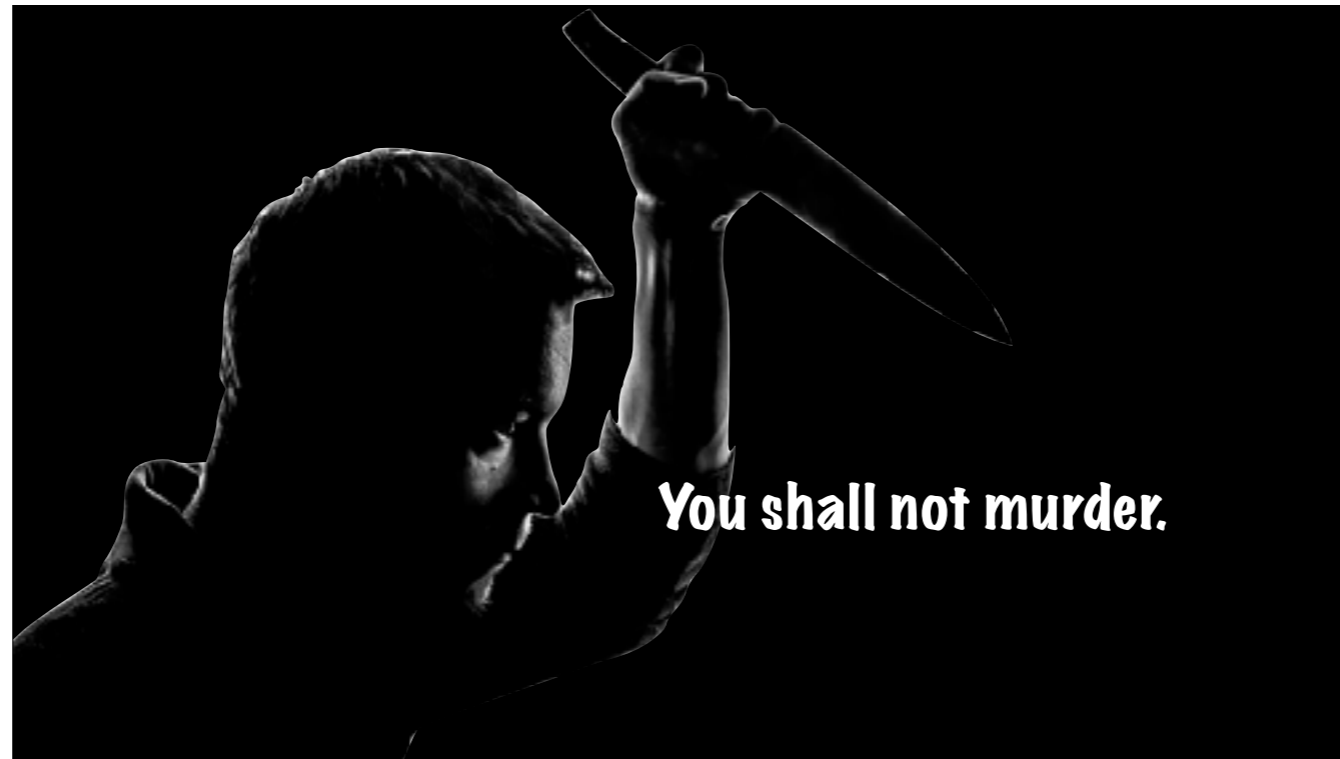


**First be reconciled  
to your brother**

**Come to terms quickly with your accuser**

- No value in worshipping, if we harbor a sin
  - Ps. 66.18: If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.
  - 1 Pet. 3.7: to the end that your prayers be not hindered.
  - if hate brother = murderer: 1 Jn. 3.15-17; don't love God





- If all that we learn from this is that
  - 1) we should not murder
  - 2) we shouldn't get angry
  - 3) we should reconcile with brother
- We are as blind / deceived as S&P!
- What underlying principle is God teaching us about Himself?



- God is life!
- Created life
- Provides for life.
- Jesus came so that we could have abundant life... now and to come!
  - John 1:4: In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
  - John 10:10b: I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



- 2 Corinthians 4:10-12 (ESV) 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so **that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.** 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 **So death is at work in us, but life in you.**
- Is life at work in you?



- 1 John 3:11-18 (ESV) 11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.



- 14 **We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.** 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and **we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.**



- 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.



- How must I honor life, like my Heavenly Father?
- Value my fellow man... all of them!
  - Especially those who are not good...



- Have you heard brethren speak of bombing another nation back to the stone age?
  - That's not life, that's death.
  - Romans 12:20-21: To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- Love, Compassion, Kindness





- How do I think about those who have wronged me?
  - Not just "I won't be angry" or disparage them...
    - but reconcile, forgive!
  - Remove the reason behind the despite (mine and theirs), anger, hatred
  - Don't think that you are righteous because you come to worship



- Speech
  - Proverbs 18:21: Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.



- Gospel
  - Romans 1:16-17: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.  
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."



- To be truly righteous... this week, be life to this world of sin and sorrow and death.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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## God is Life!

Matthew 5:21-26

Synopsis: The Scribes and Pharisees relaxed the command to not murder by diminishing the judgment involved; but Jesus teaches us about true righteousness that we are not to devalue our fellow man and we should reconcile quickly when there are issues between us. Ultimately, Jesus is reminding us that God is life, and we must value life to be like Him.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**