**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 murderous spirit is *hidden murder*

 1. HCat expounds deepest layer of breaking the 6th

 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 6th doesn’t only forbid: *it commands us to actively nurture life*

 1. Consider how Jesus *fulfilled* the 6th His lifetime

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

 2. Often re-read the 6th 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