

Peace on Earth  
Matthew 5:17-26

Review:

1. If we are to have peace on earth, we have to apply God's Law to every part of our lives
2. If we are to have peace on earth, we must not just avoid violent actions, but deal with the anger within our hearts
3. If we are to have peace on earth, we must seek reconciliation with those who are angry with us, regardless of how justified they are
4. If we are to have peace on earth, we must take the initiative to be reconciled with our enemies, no matter who is at fault for our disagreements.

Go Further:

1. Read Exodus 20:13. What is the sixth commandment?
2. Read Exodus 21:12-14. In verse 12, what is the prescribed penalty for murder?
3. In verse 13, what should happen to a person who is accused of killing someone unintentionally?
4. In verse 14, what should happen to a man who schemes and kills another man deliberately?
5. Read Deuteronomy 19:1-7. How were the three cities of refuge supposed to help those who killed someone unintentionally?
6. Read Exodus 21:22-24. According to verse 22, what are the two men guilty of doing? What is the penalty prescribed for their actions?
7. Why do you think the penalty prescribed is so much more serious in verse 23? What does this tell us about the value of human life?
8. Read Exodus 21:28 and 29. In verse 28, what should happen to a bull if it gores a man or woman to death? What happens to the owner of the bull?
9. In verse 29, a bull who has a habit of hurting people has not been penned up. If this bull kills someone, what should happen to the bull and the owner?
10. Read Exodus 22:2. If someone who is defending his home strikes a thief who subsequently dies, under what circumstances would the homeowner not be considered guilty?
11. According to verse 3, when would the homeowner be guilty of murder? Why do you think the law makes such a distinction about the time of day? What does this distinction tell us about the value of human life?
12. Read Deuteronomy 22:8. What does the Law say we should build on the roof of our houses?
13. Read Matthew 22:37-39. What are the two parts of the Great Commandment?

Apply:

1. Ancient Israelites often had flat roofs that they used like decks or porches. How might modern Americans apply the principle of Deuteronomy 22:8 to help us keep the sixth commandment?
2. Thinking about Exodus 21:28-29, what is our responsibility to protect the lives of our neighbors? What kinds of reasonable precautions should we take to keep other people safe?
3. How do you think keeping the Sixth Commandment expresses our love for other people? How does keeping it express our love for God?