

## The Point - Respect Human Life As God Does

Passages - Exodus 20:13, 1 Samuel 26: 7-11, 22-25

The setting - the people of Israel listened to the Lord's words at Mt. Sinai, the ten commandments, that told them how they were to live in relation to God and to other people. The sixth commandment called for them to respect human life. Hundreds of years later David, whom God had chosen as the next king of Israel, obeyed this command even though King Saul, the first king of Israel, wanted to kill him.

Exodus 20:13

This commandment states do not murder. God made humans, both male and female, in His image (Gen. 1:27: 9:6). As the crown of His creation God loves and treasures His image bearers. God calls for us to share His view that human life is precious.

God made a distinction between murder and killing as the prescribed penalty for various crimes, (Ex. 21:12, Lev. 20:10, Ex. 22:20, Lev. 20: 1-5).

God also allowed for the taking of human life in specific cases; in certain instances killing another person in war was allowable, (Deut. 13:15; 1st Sam. 15:3) and some other killings such as avenging a death in certain situations (Num. 35:19).

1 Samuel 26:7-11, 22-25

A typical army camp had equipment and animals in the outer circle as a barrier. Soldiers slept inside this circle. The commander slept at the center because it was the safest part of the camp. David and his nephew approached King Saul while he and his men slept. David's nephew asked him for permission to kill King Saul, but David said no, because King Saul was the Lord's anointed one. David wanted to remain innocent in God's sight. David showed his trust in God's sovereignty and His authority and control over the world He had created. David also showed respect for human life as well as honoring God who has authority over all life. David was certain that God, in whatever way and time, He determined would bring about the king's eventual death. David kept his vow that he would never do anything to injure King Saul, the Lord's anointed.

David asked that God would treat him as he had treated Saul. David had considered Saul's life valuable. David didn't presume upon God, but he knew the Lord respects human life and thus asked God to value his life.

All life has value. It is up to each of us to validate and affirm this value in what we think, say, and do. This may require getting out of our comfort zone and being more active in affirming the value of life.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to be my mindful that all human life is valuable to you and should be for us. In the precious name of Jesus I pray. Amen.