Proverbs 6:16-19

“The Making of a Murderer”

**Introduction**

This is the third message in a seven part series on seven sins the Savior hates. The first was Pride. At least one reason the Savior hates pride is because it blinds us to the wickedness of our sin, and the worth and worship of our Savior. The second was lying. We learned some lessons from the definition of lying. Lying is more than just telling something false. It deals with the intentions of our heart. Lying also teaches us about our own depravity, and the destination of those who are liars.

The third sin the savior hates is the sin of murder. “Hands the shed innocent blood.” On December 18th, 2015 Netflix released a series entitled “Making a Murder.” If you haven’t heard of the series it is a story of a man by the name of Steven Avery. In 1985 Steven was accused of sexually assaulting a prominent local woman. He spent eighteen years in prison, and then DNA evidence proved that he had not committed the crime. After two years of freedom, Steven Avery is arrested for murder. The series is a 10-year documentary about this man’s arrest, prosecution, and convictions. Many believe that Mr. Steven Avery was falsely convicted on both accounts.

Much like a trial, these scriptures are going to put us on trial and we will see whether or not we will be convicted as a murder, and I believe you will be surprised. What is it that makes a murderer? As we examine the scripture, I would like to point out some characteristics that make a murderer.

*The first characteristic that makes a murderer is*
I. **Wicked Actions**

Murder is exactly what our text is referring to and the definition seems to be laid out plainly. Hands that shed innocent blood. Leviticus 17:11 teaches that the life of the flesh is in the blood. Whoever takes an innocent life has committed an abomination unto the Lord.

**Gen 9:6** Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man

This does not refer to self-defense. I believe we have the God given right to defend ourselves, and those around us. This is not referring to capital punishment. It seems clear to me that God introduced capital punishment for those who commit murder. Murder is taking an innocent life. It can be planned and premeditated, but the picture here is taking an innocent life.

We are so numb to murder in our culture. It seems there is almost a nightly report of someone being murdered on the nightly news. But God is not numb to it. God is very much aware of it, and He despises it!

Lets see how God reacted when the first murder took place.

**Gen. 4:3** And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

**4:6** And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy
countenance fallen? 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper? 10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground.

The blood of innocent victims cry out to God, He hears them even when no one else does. A murderer may escape prison, they may trick a jury, but they will not get passed God. Why? The innocent blood is crying out for justice. I wonder how loud the blood of the aborted babies is? I wonder how loud the cries of Christian martyrs are? I wonder how loud American soil is?

The first characteristic of a murderer is wicked actions. Killing someone is against the law of God and the hands that shed the blood are an abomination to our Lord.

*The second characteristic that makes a murderer is*

II. **A Wrong Authority**

A. Motivated by Tradition not Truth

Jesus acknowledges the fact that they had been taught not to kill. This would have been music to any Pharisees ears. They new the commands of God, and they were very, very religious. They were so religious that they were looking to their morality to save them and
earn them favor and acceptance with God. Because they had not killed anyone, they assumed they were right with God.

Not killing is a good moral code, and is even a command of God. Yet Christ says in V.20 “Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Christ wants us to see that its more than doing right, it is being righteous! It is not just saying right words or being taught half-truths, but about having a heart that has been made right with God.

**John 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Those who commit murder do so because they have no truth in them. Satan had no truth in him, he was not submitted to the authority of God and therefore he murders. The making of a murderer starts with the wrong authority. It starts by not being submitted to the authority of scripture. It starts by being religious while not being righteous. It starts by being motivated by tradition rather than truth.

**B. Motivated by Fear not Faith**

Jesus uses three analogies of judgment. He refers to judgment, the council, and to hell fire. When Jesus made reference to the council they would have known exactly what he was referring to. The council was the court system of the day called the Sanhedrin. It is believed to have been made up of 71 members, and there is no question that the
death penalty would have been given to anyone who was guilty of murder.

The fear of being put to death would be a major motivating factor for resisting the urge to murder someone you might be angry with. Yet fearing punishment is not enough. Faith is what Christ is looking for, and without faith it is impossible to please Him. Christ is teaching that it goes deeper than religion, it goes deeper than mere morality, and it goes deeper than fear. This is an issue of the heart not just the hands. And as I am about to point out you can have religious hands while having a rotten heart and we can rest assured that is what God is looking at.

_The third characteristic that makes a murderer is_

**III. A Wretched Attitude**

In Matthew 5:21-23 Jesus touches a few areas that reveal that wretched attitude of someone who may not physically be guilty of murder, but is just as guilty as one. The attitude that makes a murderer is…

A. An Attitude that is Hateful

Christ says, “whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.” First of all we must understand the phrase without a cause is not giving you a pass if you have been mistreated. Without a cause can have the idea of being angry in vain. So how do we know if we have a just cause? The only
cause for anger that isn’t vain, empty, and sinful is righteous anger that comes from love for the glory of God. Other than that, you have no pass!

Christ says if we are “angry with our brother.” The word brother here does not mean brother or sister in Christ. It means our neighbor. It means those we come in contact with on a daily basis. It simply means our fellow man.

So if you are angry, if you are irritated, if you have become enraged. This anger is when the anger you have against this person does not subside, but boils inside you! What will happen is that anger will turn to hate. Before long you will either in your heart or verbally express hatred toward that person.

1 John 3:15 says “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer. What characterizes a murderer? Hatred in your heart for another person.

B. An Attitude that is Hostile

Jesus shows that hatred can turn into hostility. This is an attitude. You feel this way about this person whether you say it or not. V.22 those who say “Raca” are in danger of the council. If you say Raca, you are in danger of judgment!

Raca can mean blockhead, idiot, and worthless. It can mean many different things, and we aren’t certain of what it actually meant in Jesus day, but this much is clear. Everyone Christ spoke to knew what it meant, and it is clearly a term of abuse. It is a term that expresses ridicule or mockery. It is hating someone so much you feel that they are worthless! You would say this about someone you hated.
John Macarthur says that “There’s a tale told about a certain rabbi whose name was Simon Ben Eleazar, and Simon Ben Eleazar was coming from his teacher’s house, and he’d just had a lesson at the feet of this great teacher, and he was feeling uplifted in the thought of his own scholarship, and he was so pleased with his own erudition, and he was so thrilled with his own righteousness, and his own goodness, and his own holiness. And as he was walking along he came across a very low, rather ugly common man who passed by and greeted him. And the rabbi did not return the greeting, but said, “You Raca, how ugly you are. Are all the men of your town as ugly as you?” To which the man replied, “That I do not know, go and tell the Maker who created me how ugly is the creature He has made.”

Next is the term fool. The greek word is moros, and we get the English word moron for it. This word is taken from the Hebrew language and in Hebrew to call someone a fool was to call them a rebel. It is obviously a serious sin to call someone a rebel who is not. It is extremely dangerous to hate someone so much that you speak against his or her character. Fool can also mean senseless. Be careful how

This attitude is a sin that is equal to the sin of murder. It is an abomination to our Lord, and it is an attack on those made in His image!

C. An Attitude that is worthy of Hell

Finally, Jesus says that the one who says thou fool, I hate you, you are worthless to me, and you aren’t even right with God, that person has an attitude that is worthy of hell. Now for those who think
we are better than those who physically murder, listen to the words of Jesus.

Jesus uses the greek word Ghehennah for Hell. This was a place south of Jerusalem known as the valley of the son or sons of Hinnom. This place was once used for the horrid worship of Moloch, and children sacrifices were offered in this place.

2Kings 23:10 And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

Jer. 7:32 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

Once judgment was pronounced on this place it was polluted with every type of filth, carcasses of animals, and dead bodies of malefactors, and in order to avoid pestilence a constant fire was kept burning. Its basically I giant garbage dump for the filth of society to be tossed into and burnt up.

It is this word that Christ uses to describe the place that sinners go. Those who commit murder with their hearts go to hell just the same as those who commit it with their hands.

**Conclusion**

Now that we have looked at the characteristics that make a murderer, are you a murderer? Maybe not with your hands, but what about with your heart? This study may seem painful to the soul, but be thankful for the conviction of the Lord. He is doing His sanctifying work in your life. God is
like a wise master artist chipping away the pieces of the marble to make us into the masterpiece He has in mind! It is God making us into the very image of Jesus Christ, so rejoice!

This passage should expose your sinfulness and cause you to cling to Christ and His finished work! If you are lost, come to Jesus, repenting of your sin and trusting in His sacrifice. If you are saved, come to Jesus, repenting of your sin, and trusting in His sacrifice.

May we pray with David, “may the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight oh Lord my strength and my redeemer.”