

March Youth Bible Study Synopsis

Topic: 10 Commandments 5-10

Place: Manju and Maya's house

Date: Friday, March 14, 2003

Time: 6.30pm

The meeting started at 7:10pm at the residence of Manju and Maya Sebastian in Mount Vernon, NY. 17 youth members including Achen and Kochamma were present. 3 youth members from Rockland CSI were also present bringing the total participation to 20. Ajo started the bible study with a word of prayer and after singing for about half an hour, we proceeded into our bible study.

This is the second and last bible study in our 2-part exploration of the 10 commandments. Like the last bible study, we assigned different people to speak on one of the commandments. The last six commandments refer to our duties and service to our fellow man.

The six speakers assigned to speak were:

- Mary: Commandment 5 - Honor your father and mother
- Leena: Commandment 6 - You shall not murder
- Deepthi: Commandment 7 - You shall not commit adultery
- Sheena: Commandment 8 - You shall not steal
- Lenu: Commandment 9 - You shall not lie
- Justin: Commandment 10 - You shall not covet

Excerpts and summary of the speeches:

Mary: The 5th commandment is a bridge between the 1st four and last 6 commandments. God tells us to honor our father and mother as a way of showing respect and gratitude. This law is very much related to happiness.

Leena: The first murder in the bible is when Cain kills Abel. Since then man has always committed this act. Since we're created in God's image and God-given life is a gift, no man and only God should take that away. Leena mentioned 4 areas where this commandment may be violated in our society. 1) Abortion - there are differing viewpoints on when a baby is "alive" 2) Capital Punishment - would Jesus approve of it? Matthew 5:17-19. Jesus also died of CP. 3) Suicide - Saul, Samson, Judas all committed suicide. It's considered an unpardonable sin in the bible. Some people nowadays even consider Jesus' death to be a suicide. 4) Euthanasia - it's a form of assisted suicide. Leena mentioned King David setting up Uriaah to be killed. Leena mentioned that the OT mentions in Deut. 19 that "accidental slaying or self-defense" killings are pardonable.

Deepthi: mentioned 1st Cor. 6:19-20 which tells us to keep our bodies pure because its the temple of God where his holy spirit resides. Keep away from all sexual immorality. The common definition of adultery is sexual relations outside of marriage. God says that even looking at a woman with lust is also considered adultery. You violate your

relationship w/ God as well when you commit adultery and violate your marital relationship because it was set by God. When children come out of adultery it ruins the family set up God set-up and intended. She also mentioned King David's adulterous relationship with Bathsheba. Read Heb. 13:4; 2 Sam. 11; Matthew 5:29,30; Romans 6:12,13.

Sheena: You can take the commandments in a positive way so for this one you can say "be satisfied with what you have." The fact that we don't have somebody else's possessions is for a reason. King David stole Bathsheba from her husband. God gives us certain things to be happy with and we shouldn't want more than what God wills.

Lenu: Another form of lying is slander, rumors, gossiping. Mentioned white lies that we often say in our day-to-day lives without thinking about it (ex. "what a beautiful baby", "i'm fine", etc.). Read Prov. 6:16; James 5:12; James 3:6. Lying can have an avalanche effect where we feel compelled to lie more or to others just to keep our original lie intact. The bible tells us that our conscience and holy spirit can help us obey this commandment.

Justin: If we desire someone else's things, that's covetousness. Some people deal with gambling which is a form of covetousness. Sometimes we have temptations and sometimes the temptations get to us. Read Colossian 3:5; Romans 7:7.

After all the speakers went, we opened up the bible study for discussion. Many interesting questions and observations came out. Everyone agreed that each of these commandments could be the focus of one bible-study alone. The discussion went on for almost 45 minutes and is too big to list here. Some excerpts:

- Mary questioned about Abortion. Achen disagreed and said that life begins in the womb, not just when the baby comes out
- Leju read Matthew 22: 36-40 [The greatest commandment] and said that it is a great summary and encapsulates all the 10 commandments.
- Achen mentioned that Jesus' summary of the law and prophets is not his own invention. God actually mentions it in 2 places in the OT (which I forgot to write down).
- When questioned about war and why God even aides the Israelites in their wars, Achen mentioned that after studying the scriptures he found that God only destroys those who go against God's teachings. He leads Israel's armies against pagans and other non-believers in the land.
- Achen mentioned that the 10 commandments were given to the israelites after they came out of Egypt as a guideline for living a new life in a new land and to attain salvation. In the NT, we find that this is not enough...we must accept Christ as our saviour as well.

We didn't do a round-robin prayer this time. We took down prayer requests and Achen requested 2 people to pray.

Prayer Requests:

- Sheena's sister (cold)

-Yonkers fire

-Mary's sister-in-law's family (death in the family)

Only Lenu prayed. Achen closed with a word of prayer and benediction. The bible study ended at approx. 9.30pm. Dinner was provided by the host family.

For His glory,

Ajo Cherian
Youth Secretary