

Preaching Outline of Joshua 20.1-9

- I. Intro- Read the text and discuss background.
 1. Background setting and history of Israel up to the point of the text.
 2. Detail the civil law applicable to murder and define the redeemer of blood.
- II. Body - Outline of the civil law of manslaughter.
 1. Difference is not in action-- **God is concerned with the heart**. Example of 2 accounts of a person in a kitchen holding a knife, turning around and stabbing another person. Actions were exactly the same, but one person intended to stab the person coming into the room, whereas in the other account the person had no knowledge of person entering the room.
 2. God's provision for protecting the innocent heart
 3. God's provision for protecting the surviving loved ones from temptation to wrongfully enact role of "redeemer of blood".
- IV. Conclusion- Summary and application
 1. God is concerned about the heart, and protecting everyone involved in this commandment.
 2. When we get upset, do we jump to react before we consider the heart of the one who wronged us?
 3. Like the 'knife in kitchen' example, two people can go through the exact same actions of living the Christian life. Identical they may be in action, one person does it from rote obligation, not even remembering why they do most of what they do 'in the name of Christ'; the other does it with the heartfelt mission of Christ-who left all He had in heaven, came to earth to painfully meet the needs of His beloved creation. We are called to pick up our same Cross daily, but not to the end of 'picking up a Cross'. Christ had a purpose for His sacrifice: to meet the needs of people He loved. Do you live your Christian life with a heart God desires? Do we pick up our cross daily and follow Him in His purpose-- to urgently meet the needs of this lost world?