

"RESPECT FOR LIFE"

Exodus 20:13

INTRODUCTION

On Saturday night, June 28, 1997, the Fight of the Year turned out to be the Bite of the Century. In one of the most bizarre endings to a world heavyweight boxing championship, Mike Tyson, the ring tyrant, was disqualified after twice digging his choppers into his rival's ears in the third round. The more than 1 million Pay-Per-View audience was stunned. After the fight ended, Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield was rushed by ambulance to a hospital where doctors stitched his damaged skin and cartilage. One late-night host would later quip, "Evander became the real meal on pay-per-chew."

Joking aside, the inner rage of Tyson manifested itself in an unusual, wretched manner. Perhaps the sport's one-on-one naked aggression in front of a worldwide audience makes its combatants particularly vulnerable to the cerebral gymnastics that can elevate them to new heights or plunge them into defeat. But Tyson's out-of-control ring tactics reveal something deeper. Behind the ferocious act itself was the pent up anger that gave rise to it. The fury unleashed that evening was not simply momentary rage but an extension of the red-hot anger that had been boiling in his heart for many years.

-Taken from The Perfect Ten by Michael G. Moriarty

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Murder is a crime that is very real in our world. Take some time to discuss what motivates murder.

Read Matthew 5:21-22; 15:19

2. Summarize what Jesus is teaching. How does Jesus deepen our understanding of this commandment?
3. Why does Jesus make a parallel between physical violence and verbal violence? What does He say will be the fate of both?

Read Genesis 9:1-7; James 3:9-12

4. Why does God deal with the shedding of blood with such severity? What component of each human being is at stake?
5. What is James teaching about the one who professes to love God, yet does not love people who are made in God's image?

Read Matthew 25:42-43

6. How is this passage a positive thrust to the heart of the commandment? How does this fit into the Ten Commandments as a whole?
7. Are there any people in your life that you struggle to love? Take some time to pray for a heart that will not be filled with hatred but with over-flowing love.