

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Epiphany 6; Christian Education
February 12 & 13, 2017

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Before we point the finger at them, we need to point it right back at us. In our Gospel Lesson for today, Jesus speaks about a couple of ways that we break God's commands. The Bible is blunt: **"Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him."** (1 John 3:15) How often do we let hatred smolder in our hearts about a brother or sister in Christ? Or in another place it says: **"If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. Whoever loves God must also love his brother."** (1 John 4:20-21). Jesus warns about how dangerous it is to have lust in our hearts. How easy it is to give up on a marriage? Or how about those words of cursing and swearing that come out of our mouths? Feeling guilty yet? According to Jesus, we are murderers. We are adulterers. We are liars. We can give any excuse that we want, but the bottom line is that way too often we choose **"death and destruction"** over **"life and prosperity."**

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