

Lust—Matthew 5:27-30

- **Intro**
 - Text highlights utter wickedness of sin! Sin is what necessitated the incarnation! Telling mankind what to DO was not enough (Law). Grace to atone for sin and change HEARTS was necessary.
 - Jesus isn't making friends—he does offer marvelous new life but also convicts of sin and leads people to repentance—that is the NT gospel.
 - David and Bathsheba
- **Realize that Adultery is Not Someone Else's Sin—“you shall not commit adultery” (v.27)**
 - **v.28—“already committed adultery”**
 - Marriage is God's idea! Our adherence to Christ as King extends into our married life; Christian marriage is defined by disciple and self-denial; Christ is Lord, even of marriages!
 - This text is Jesus, the Better Nathan, telling us, “we are the man!”
- **Identify The Intent of the Heart, not the Actions of the Body, as the Issue—“in the heart” (28b)**
 - **This leads us to POVERTY of Spirit and the recognition that we need DEEP HEART TRANSFORMATION!**
 - If you feel beat down by this teaching, best advice, stay there! We are desperate!
 - **Realize the difference between affirming beauty and appeasing lust—“lustful intent” (v.28)**
 - Are people FELLOW image bearers, worthy of our love, service and respect or are they FUEL for our self-centered, sin-sick fascination with sexual pleasure and desire?
 - The problem here is NOT with looking at/admiring beauty where it is (even in people) but in **USING people to satisfy our own sinful pursuits!**
 - **Lust is ultimately about COVETING**—we want what is NOT ours
 - Exodus 20:17—You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.
 - **Lust then = unbelief** in God's goodness, kindness, wisdom, timing...must be shunned!
 - Bonhoeffer—when you have made your eye the instrument of impurity, you cannot see God with it. When you have made your hand the instrument of impurity, you cannot serve God with it.
 - **See the perversion of sin**—it takes the “eye/hand” and turns it from something to be used for God's glory and the good of others into an instrument of God-belittling unrighteousness. **Sin twists everything such that what God meant to be our friends are now our enemies, at war with our hearts! Lust is bad because God's design is GOOD!**
 - Jesus is bidding us to set our eyes on him (Col. 3); if our eyes are there then, even when looking on another person, purity will reign! Sin is NOT the action...it is the HEART that leads to the action! Even though the hand or eye is the INSTRUMENT, the heart is the CULPRIT
 - Bible is teaching us to focus not so much on SINS as on SIN—our sinfulness leads to our sins.
 - **Struggle is INTERNAL not CIRCUMSTANTIAL**—if your location, status, etc changed you would NOT be immune!
 - **Sin is not only POWERFUL but also SUBTLE**—sin leads us to feel really content with ourselves so long as we haven't committed “the act”
 - Illustration—we like to consider it a victory if “we were tempted but didn't do the act.” That is good to a point but we must not stop there. **We must step back and ask, “why did I want to do it? Where in my heart is that coming from?”**
 - **EVALUATE your heart—with your Bible in submission to the Spirit. This takes time!**
 - There are men/women who would NEVER commit adultery but who enjoy rampant sin in the heart and mind and imagination.

- No adultery?—why do you voyeuristically peruse INSTA? Why do you linger in the magazine isle? Why...because you are ENJOYING it! You are doing by PROXY what you would never dream of doing in ACTUALITY!—that is wicked subtle sin
- Be Ferocious in Killing Sin (v.29-30)
 - “if”—this is hypothetical. Meant to say, if you must choose between ongoing, habitual, repetitive sin or the loss of your body parts...pick losing your body parts!
 - PERSONAL applications—if it’s your eye, don’t look; your hand, don’t do it; your feet, don’t go!
 - Causes = the tense implies “keeps on causing you to sin”—idea of progressive, ongoing
 - “gouge out eye..cut off arm”
 - We don’t need to mutilate our bodies but need grace to rip out our stoney hearts and replace them!
 - Gal. 5:19-24—works of the flesh v. Fruit of the spirit...we CRUCIFY our lust-filled flesh!
 - Not MUTILATION but MORTIFICATION is the pathway to holiness!!
 - Hyperbole—any sacrifice necessary to pursue sexual purity is worthwhile because the consequences of sexual sin are so frightening and destructive
 - See the destruction of sin—sin leads to death and judgment! Because God is God, sin must lead to hell.
 - Literally—whatever causes you to sin...behave as if you have cut them off and CANNOT use them!
 - “for it is better”—we must have a perspective on eternity...in this life, we are preparing to enter into eternity!
 - We are so concerned about this life; are we equally concerned about our soul and spirit in eternity?
 - This ought to lead us to a hatred of sin—we must TRAIN ourselves to hate it.
 - We hate sin...crush it, eliminate it! WE don’t flirt with it, dabble in it, etc.
 - Question: are we willing, for the sake of the gain of eternity and purity, to bear the loss of what we set aside/crucify and endure the ridicule that may follow?
- In response to failure, flee to Christ
 - Remember the price paid to deliver us from sin—nothing will motivate us more toward holiness than remembering the crushed body of Jesus that was required to deliver us!
 - “No, it is not too late.” The glory of the way in which God deals with sinful men and women, which we all are, is that God is able to pick us up where we are and as we are and set us in his way, which is always a way of blessing. God can do that with you no matter how far you have fallen.
 - 1 Peter 2:24—Him himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
 - Gospel that says Another, who is holy and righteous and pure has taken my place and my sin and my guilt upon himself. I am washed in his blood and have been given his nature!
- Close
 - After last 2 weeks, if you can conceivably be satisfied in yourself and feel clean in yourself, you do NOT know yourself rightly and your deep-seeded sin, foulness and blackness. Until we feel dirty, vile, and recognize a need to be washed, cleansed and forgiven (poverty of Spirit), my prayer is, “God have mercy on us.”
 - STARVE the flesh—Paul said, make no provision for the flesh
 - Lloyd Jones—there is a fire within you; never bring oil anywhere near it, because if you do there will be a flam and there will be trouble.
 - No insta...no magazines...no 50 shades...no lingering at the gym
 - Devil in the details here
 - Suppose you came to a country where you could fill a theatre by simply bringing a covered plate onto the stage and then slowly lifting the cover so as to let everyone see,

just before the lights went out, that it contained a mutton chop or a bit of bacon, would you not think that in that country something had gone wrong with the appetite for food?

- **Deliberately restrain the flesh**—know yourself and AVOID pitfalls!
- Paul—by the Spirit, put to death the deeds of the body!
- FLEE—Joseph, who fled from Potiphar’s wife, and not David, who invited Bathsheba over to the palace, is to be imitated.
- Real contemplation almost NEVER accompanies sexual sin!
- We must decide whether to live for this world or the next; whether to follow the crowd or Jesus Christ!