

## Matthew 5:27-30

### Introduction

#### I. Matthew 5:27

- A. Old Testament background: Exodus 20:15 – You shall not commit adultery.
- B. Jesus says “You have *heard* that it was said”, as though somehow we have heard \_\_\_\_\_!

#### II. Matthew 5:28

- A. “But I say to you...”
  - ✓ Jesus is going to contradict a very deficient \_\_\_\_\_ of the seventh commandment.
  
- B. Everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
  - 1. Background
    - a. The people of Jesus’ day had grown up assuming that if they refrained from going to bed with someone who was not their wife, then they had \_\_\_\_\_ in *keeping* the sixth commandment.
    - b. Mark 10:17-20 – And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”
  - 2. Jesus exposes every married man in this room for what he really is – an \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. For us, there is something more \_\_\_\_\_ about the prolonged look than the actual physical act.
    - b. Lust is a “lesser” sin only in terms of its immediate \_\_\_\_\_.
    - c. Lust is no less of a sin than adultery in terms of the \_\_\_\_\_ it brings upon us before God.

3. How can this be?
  - a. Matthew 15:19 – For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
  - b. The one who looks at the picture is motivated by the exact \_\_\_\_\_ that drove the other person to the physical act!
  - c. We must stop measuring the guilt of our sin by its \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. We must see that even the “\_\_\_\_\_” sins flow from *the same sinful desire* as the very “\_\_\_\_\_” of sins.
4. In God’s Law, the punishment for adultery was \_\_\_\_\_. According to God’s Law, the one who lusts must \_\_\_\_\_.

C. “You have heard that it was said to those of old... But I say to you...”

1. Condemnation
  - a. Jesus has taken a righteousness that was 100% achievable and replaced it with a righteousness that we can \_\_\_\_\_ fully achieve.
  - b. Jesus has accused us of adultery – a crime deserving of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Grace
  - a. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
  - b. Jesus did not come to save the righteous, but \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus, every man is condemned as an adulterer. But \_\_\_\_\_, there is no condemnation.

D. To our sisters

1. **An appeal:** In light of the above, will you not give up some of the styles and fashions of today for the sake of your brother?
2. **A warning:** Matthew 18:6-7 – Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

### III. Matthew 5:29-30

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ is impeccable!

B. What about the fact that if we are “in Christ” there is now no condemnation?

1. Romans 8:1-4, 9, 12-13 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the

law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit... You... are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him... So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

2. **It is precisely the one who is in Christ who (*because he sees that sin results in death and hell*) tears out his eye and cuts off his hand and throws them both away.**
3. **The person who is *not* fighting against sin will most certainly stumble and be cast into hell because he is most certainly not in Christ!**

C. What about figurative language?

1. We should not literally tear out our eye or cut off our hand.
2. ***However***, the “extremism” of the figurative expression represents the “\_\_\_\_\_” of what Jesus is actually calling us to do.

D. The point is this:

1. Stumbling (“sin”) leads to falling (Matthew 13:21; 24:10).
  2. Falling leads to death and hell.
  3. As those who are in Christ, we recognize that whatever obstacles or impediments there could ever possibly be to salvation, we must eliminate them \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. But instead, we sometimes... (cf. Proverbs 4:14-15)
5. What does it mean to tear out our eyes and cut off our hands and throw them away?
- a. “Temptation should be *flung* aside *immediately* and *decisively*. Dillydallying is deadly. Halfway measures work havoc. The surgery must be radical.” (William Hendriksen)
  - b. We must go to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ lengths to root sin out of our lives.
  - c. There is only one place for \_\_\_\_\_ in Christianity and that is in our struggle against \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. Romans 8:13 – For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you *put to death* the deeds of the body, you will live.
    - ii. Mark 8:34 – And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
    - iii. 1 Corinthians 9:27 – But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

- d. We should take \_\_\_\_\_ action in getting rid of not just sin, but any and all things that might \_\_\_\_\_ us to sin or introduce temptation into our lives.

### Conclusion

- A. We will not win the battle against sin until we...
- B. Galatians 5:24 – And those who belong to Christ Jesus have *crucified* the flesh with its passions and desires.
- C. Colossians 3:5-6 – *Put to death* therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of *these* the wrath of God is coming.
- D. As we become ever more and more \_\_\_\_\_, let us remember to be ever more and more \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. This is the person who has truly tasted of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

### Teaching our Children

Spend time reflecting with your children on the following truths.

- ✓ Even the “smallest” sins flow from *the same sinful desires in our hearts* as the very “biggest” of sins.
- ✓ So speaking an angry and unkind word to someone makes us just as guilty before God as the one who kills a person. (Lusting makes us just as guilty before God as the one who sleeps with his neighbor’s wife.)
- ✓ (If you have older sons, this is a great opportunity for you [the father] to humbly discuss the topic of lust and adultery in light of the above two principles.)

Now meditate again on Matthew 5:3 and lead your children to glory anew in Christ (Romans 8:1-4)! NEVER GROW TIRED OF DOING THIS WITH YOUR CHILDREN!!!

Read Matthew 5:29-30

- Q. If we are in Christ (Christians) what should we do about the sin in our lives – (since we know that sin is leading many people to death and hell)?
- A. We should do *whatever it takes* to get rid of sin! We should be willing to pay *any price at all* in order to overcome sin. We should struggle violently against sin. (See Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5-6 and III. D. 5. a.)
- Q. Jesus tells us not just to get rid of the *sin*, but also to get rid of whatever ????? (causes) us to sin. (Discuss possible “causes” of sin and read Proverbs 4:14-15)
- Q. Sometimes, instead of fighting violently against sin and doing whatever it takes to get rid of sin, what do we do?
- A. We treat sin lightly. We flirt with sin. We walk away instead of run away. We try sitting on the fence. We don’t give up the things that can cause us to sin.

**Pray for God’s grace to fight violently against sin and to always be poor in spirit.**