

Adultery

Matthew 5:27-30 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your *body*, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand is causing you to sin, cut it off and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your *body*, than for your whole body to go into hell.

"You have heard that it was said" - Here Jesus is again contrasting what they, the Pharisees, thought they knew with God's perfect standard. They knew from the Old Testament that adultery was sin (**Exodus 20:14**).

"But I say to you" - Jesus is _____

True "righteousness" is not merely about what a person does but includes what they _____ and _____. This teaching is meant to explain the reality of sin, and to highlight the need for grace and faith, not good works, in salvation. **Matthew 5:20**

The standard definition of adultery is when a married person engages in a consensual sexual relationship outside of that marriage. Jesus does not contradict the law against adultery, he magnifies it. In Matthew 5:28 He says, "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." The popular teaching of the day was that only the _____ of adultery was sin. But fantasizing about it or lusting for it was not. In other words only the external action of committing the act was wrong, but anything short of that was OK. Jesus corrects their faulty understanding and shows them that obedience to God flows from the _____. It is *internal* not *external*.

2 Samuel 11:2-5; Matthew 15:18-19; James 1:14-15

The battle is in the _____ -

God looks at the _____ -

Matthew 5:29-30 29 Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your *body*, than for your

whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand is causing you to sin, cut it off and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your *body*, than for your whole body to go into hell.

Jesus is not literally telling us to pluck our eye out or cut our hand off. He is using these two parts of our body symbolically. The eye is referring to what we allow ourselves to _____. The hand is referring to our _____. **Habakkuk 1:13; Psalm 24:3&4**

If there is something in our lives that causes us to fall into the sin of adultery or any sin, then we need to _____ that out of our lives. This can be just as painful as literally plucking out our eyes or cutting off our hands. We need to focus on the rewards and let Jesus soothe our pain.

We must remove the source of _____ –

The laws purpose was not to make us perfect so we could get to heaven by good works. The laws purpose is to show us that our hearts and hands are unclean, that we have nothing to commend us before God. Jesus is showing that no one is innocent. No one has kept the whole Law (except Him). No one meets God's perfect standard. These statements and others like it on anger and divorce should drive people to the realization that they need help. And the only way to become pure is by coming to the Lord and asking Him to make you _____. **Thessalonians 4:3-5; 1 John 3:3; Colossians 3:5; Psalm 54:7; Psalm 51:10; Proverbs 30:12; Philippians 4:8**

Application and Discussion

What does this passage tell us about the importance of our mind?

The world may say what goes on in your own mind can't hurt anyone. How would you respond to this?

How can you control what you think?

Bible Verses (NAS)

Exodus 20:14, Deuteronomy 5:18 "You shall not commit adultery."

Matthew 5:20 "For I say to you that unless your righteousness far surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

2 Samuel 11:2-5 2 Now at evening time David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. 3 So David sent *servants* and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4 Then David sent messengers and ^{1b}had her brought, and when she came to him, he slept with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. 5 But the woman conceived; so she sent *word* and informed David, and said, "I am pregnant."

Matthew 15:18-19 18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and those things defile the person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, *acts of* adultery, *other* immoral sexual acts, thefts, false testimonies, and ^{1d}slandorous statements.

James 1:14-15 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death.

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor.

Psalms 24:3-4 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 **3** For this is God's will: that you become holy,^[a] that you keep away from sexual immorality, **4** that each of you know how to possess his own body^[b] in holiness and honor, **5** not in lustful passion like the Gentiles who do not know God.

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Psalms 51:7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Proverbs 30:12 There is a king who is pure in his own eyes, Yet is not washed from his filthiness.

Philippians 4:8 Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.