

“JESUS’ KINGDOM MANIFESTO”

BIG IDEA . . . Part 5: How to Ruin Your Love Life . . .

Lust and Adultery (Matt. 5:27-30)

INTRO: We continue our series on the SOM, Jesus’ handbook for living in the KOG. We are making our way through Ch. 5 – Jesus’ Manifesto on True Righteousness:

vv. 1-16 True Righteousness *Defined*

vv. 17-20 True Righteousness *Received* (not earned) – 2 Cor. 5:21

vv. 21-48 True Righteousness *Practiced* as Jesus looks at the attitude (heart) behind the act. He spoke first about the attitude of anger behind the act of murder. In each of these six examples Jesus shows us what “exceeding” the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees looks like.

TODAY Lust and Adultery (5:27-30) and next Divorce (5:31-32)

TITLE of Part 5: “How to Ruin Your Love Life.” This is a difficult passage for many because adultery and/or divorce is part of your story – and you are all too familiar with the pain these bring.

REMINDER God is a God of grace, mercy, and forgiveness. He loves you and when He sees you, He sees you covered in righteousness of His Son. He is willing and able to redeem the hurt from adultery and divorce.

God doesn’t want to ruin your love life. He wants to bless it. Sexuality is one of God’s good gifts within the proper context. According to the authoritative, true Word from God, that context is in the covenant relationship of marriage. Paul (1 Cor. 6:9; Eph. 5:3, 5); Rev. 21:8.

ILLUS: Sex within marriage is like the fire in the fireplace . . .

THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF ADULTERY (vv. 27-30) – Adultery is sex without anyone who is not your spouse

I. SIN IN ACTION (v. 27) – Traditional Rabbinical teaching

- A. The LAW condemns adultery, technically any sexual immorality. The 7th commandment forbids it (Exo. 20:14; Deut. 5:18; 22:22). Penalty of death (Lev. 20:10). Jesus quotes it word for word. The 10th Commandment alludes to adultery (Ex. 20:17).
- B. The Religious Leaders perverted it. They said (v. 27 “You have heard that it was said”) You could only commit adultery against the husband (double standard?). Men could be unfaithful and still claim he had not committed adultery.

II. SIN IN ATTITUDE/HEART (v. 28) – Jesus’ Radical teaching

- A. LUST – The attitude behind the act “exceeded” their standard. Jesus raises the standard (vv. 27-28). It’s not just the physical act of sex that constitutes adultery, but also the “lustful look”! Again, Jesus is aiming at the heart attitude, as in anger/murder (Matt. 15:19). A “lustful look” is not a casual glance, but an intentional gaze. It’s one thing to notice and appreciate; something else to lust in your heart. The moment thinking moves sexually, you’ve crossed the line. For the ladies, it’s also wrong to dress in order to draw attention to yourself. Dress attractively, but never seductively – and we do know the difference, don’t we? Read 2 Pet. 2:14. Lust uses people, seeks to master and conquer; love seeks to serve.
- B. CAUTION: Don’t use a verse like this to excuse further sin, like, “I’ve already committed adultery in my heart, I might as well go ahead and act.” What if we looked at murder and anger that way? “I called that person idiot and a fool; I might as well go ahead and murder them!” Also never compare one sin with another. Lastly, although adultery in the heart and in the flesh are equally sinful, the act has greater consequences.

III. SIN’S SERIOUSNESS (vv. 29-30) – Deliverance?

- A. “*How do I deal with the struggle of lust?*” Take extreme measures to get rid of anything that causes you to sin. Jesus does not mince words here. Shocking to hear then and now. “Eye” is visual instrument and “hand” is physical instrument for lusting – Hands steal and adultery is a form of theft – taking something that doesn’t belong to you.
- B. “*Do we take Jesus’ words literally?*” Of course not (everyone be one-eyed and one-armed!) Purposeful hyperbole for the sake of emphasis – take whatever drastic measures to deal with your sin – avoiding pornography, sexually explicit movies, etc. This is a call for a dramatic severing of the sinful impulses in us which push us to sinful actions. See 18:7-9.
- C. “*Why does Jesus tell us to deal so radically with sin?*” One simple reason – sin leads to hell (Col. 3:5-6 . . . wrath of God is coming). Preacher John Owen said, “Be killing sin or it will be killing you!” Back to vv. 29-30 Honestly, destroying external body parts will not solve the problem of lust because it is in the heart (mind). We must guard against anything that turns our heart from following Jesus. D. Bonhoeffer writes: “No sacrifice is too great if it enables us to conquer a lust which cuts us off from Jesus.” 1 Cor. 6:9-11 . . .

CONC: A very challenging and convicting passage, especially for many men. Jesus exposes our sinful hearts. The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart. How respond?