

Huh?

Part Five: *adultery*

April 2, 2023

The scribes and Pharisees looked righteous, but their spirituality was all external. That's why Jesus told his listeners that their righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees (Matthew 5:20). Righteous living goes beyond outward actions; it also includes the inward condition of the heart. Jesus explains this in Matthew 5:21-47 when he explains God's full intention for the Old Testament Law.

1st - Jesus gave us God's intention for His command, "Do not commit murder." Matthew 5:21-26

The Pharisees taught that murder is taking someone's life, but Jesus said God's command "Do not murder" extends not only to the act itself but also to the anger that causes the act.

2nd - Jesus gave us God's intention for His command, "Do not commit adultery." Matthew 5:27-28

The Pharisees taught that adultery is having sex with someone other than your spouse, but Jesus said adultery is more than having sex outside of your marriage.

- **Jesus said we are guilty of adultery in God's eyes if we have lust in our hearts.**

Like murder, adultery begins in the heart. The "look" that Jesus talks about in Vs. 28 is not a casual glance, but a constant stare with desire. It is looking for the purpose of feeding your sensual appetite.

You must understand three truths about sex to understand why adultery is a sin:

1. God created sex for married couples.

God created sex and therefore has the right to determine its use. He has both the authority to regulate it and to punish those who rebel against His laws for sex (Hebrews 13:4).

2. God gave sex to married couples for pleasure, procreation, and to promote oneness in their relationship.

God designed sex - the most intimate physical act a man and woman can do together, to help them get close to each other. Sex helps a married couple intertwine their two lives into one life.

3. God wants us to keep sex in marriage because He knows sex is powerful and dangerous.

God doesn't want us to engage in sex outside of marriage because sex outside of marriage can cause disease, unwanted pregnancies, and negative sexual experiences. A negative sexual experience is any sexual experience that hurts you, your view of sex, your spouse, and/or your marriage (1 Corinthians 6:15-20).

After he explained God's intention for His command, "Do not commit adultery,"

- **Jesus told us to take bold action to avoid the sin of adultery.**

Was Jesus telling us in Matthew 5:29-30 to mutilate our bodies to avoid committing adultery? Of course not! Jesus was using exaggeration to motivate us to go to great lengths to stop our eyes and hands from engaging in sexual sin.

How can we apply Jesus' teaching on adultery?

- We must control our hearts to avoid sexual sin.

“Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace. Well then, since God’s grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.”

(Romans 6:12–16, NLT)

Jesus said you must control your heart to avoid the sin of adultery. And the only way to control your heart is to give yourself completely to God. Every part of your body must be an instrument for the glory of God!

Some Personal Questions...

1. Are you controlling your heart, or is it controlling you?
2. What should you do when you are tempted to lust?
3. What guards do you have in place to keep your mind and your marriage pure?