



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **When the Heart Is Exposed**
Series: **Upside Down Kingdom**
Text: **Matthew 5:21-37**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **March 1, 2026**

EXPOSING THE HEART MOVES US FROM SHALLOW RIGHTEOUSNESS TO REAL TRANSFORMATION!

For I tell you that **unless your righteousness surpasses** that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Mt 5:20).

*“What is written in the **head may be erased**; but what is **written in the heart abides there.**”*

Charles Spurgeon

I. Exposed _____: When the Heart Turns Deadly

21 “You have heard that **it was said** to the people long ago, ‘**You shall not murder**, and **anyone who murders** will be subject to **judgment.**’

But I tell you that **anyone who is angry with a brother or sister**, will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. (Matt. 5:21-22)

WHAT ARE THE INTERNAL REASONS FOR MURDER?

- _____ - someone kills to seize another’s possessions
- _____ - killer resents that another person has something
- _____ - a settled anger that functions like a seed to murder
- _____ - creates a self-perpetuating cycle that naturally escalates toward violence and murder.

What would Jesus rather you do in the NEW KINGDOM? - _____

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.** (Matt. 5:23-24)

“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are **still with him on the way**, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.” (Matt. 5:25-26)

II. Exposed _____: When the Heart Drifts Toward Destruction

*“You have heard that it was said, **‘You shall not commit adultery.’**”*

*But I tell you that anyone **who looks at a woman lustfully** has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Mt 5:27–28).*

**Lust isn’t just about _____. It’s about _____.
It’s reducing a person made in God’s image into something to consume.**

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOVE AND LUST IN ONE WORD? - _____.

If **your right eye causes you to stumble**, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And **if your right hand causes you to stumble**, cut it off and throw it away. **It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.** (Mt 5:29–30).

When it comes to the moral compass: Jesus ***“means that however, difficult, arduous, troublesome, or painful God’s rule may be, we must make no excuse for that, as the righteousness of God should be worth more to us than all the other things which are chiefly dear and precious.”*** John Calvin

III. Exposed _____: When the Heart Can’t Be Trusted

*““Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, **‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’**”*

But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.

Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” (Matt. 5:33-37)