



SERMON ON THE **MOUNT**

**“Looking for Love in
All the Wrong Places”
Matthew 5:27-30**

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; ²⁸but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹But if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it 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. ³⁰And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it 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.

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- B. This morning we will focus on verses 27-30 and see what the Law of God says about adultery, lust, and sexual purity.**
- C. Some of the scribes and Pharisees were misinterpreting the Law and creating loopholes to get around the intent of the Law.**

Introduction

D. We must keep in mind that Jesus is not correcting the Law of God. Rather, He is correcting the misinterpretations of the Law being taught in His day.

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E. “Sexual relations have become the door through which many professing Christians have walked to their destruction. Perhaps evangelicals have rather naively assumed that drift in secular morality ‘could never happen to us.’ But it has, and already our magazines and pastoral journals abound with discussions on this very issue” (Sinclair Ferguson).

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G. Adultery is not an eye problem or a hand problem. It's a heart problem. The man who looks at a woman lustfully commits adultery with her in his heart.

Introduction

H. Big Idea: Look to Jesus for the strength to put to death your sinful desires.

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B. God gave His people the seventh commandment to protect and preserve the sanctity of marriage.

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D. In his seduction he attacked God's divine design for marriage. Satan has been attacking marriage ever since.

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F. “You have heard that it was said.” Jesus is challenging the rabbinic teaching that had diluted the demand of the commandment.

I. Protect Your Marriage (5:27)

G. “Some ancient interpreters, like some modern interpreters, interpreted texts like Deut 22:22 permissively. They argued, for example, that adultery was a sexual act with the wife of one’s neighbor, that is, the wife of a fellow Israelite. Thus a sexual act with the wife of a Gentile would not technically constitute an act of adultery” (Chuck Quarles).

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I. The issue Jesus is addressing here is the mishandling of the command by some scribes and Pharisees. They were teaching if you didn’t commit the physical act then it was not adultery.

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J. This commandment is designed to protect your marriage. Wait a minute, I’m not married. Protect your future marriage by striving for purity now.

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**B. “This is not a prohibition of the normal attraction which exists between men and women, but of the deep-seated lust which consumes and devours, which in imagination attacks and rapes, which mentally contemplates and commits adultery”
(D. A. Carson).**

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D. “He did not intend that men or women hide their eyes from any beautiful or handsome member of the opposite sex, nor did He teach that it was wrong to admire someone’s appearance. The lustful look locks eyes on another person and uses him or her to fuel one’s sexual imagination” (Chuck Quarles).

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F. Christians have been granted “pure hearts” (Matthew 5:8), new hearts that prompt righteousness rather than inspire defilement. Adultery in the heart is inconsistent with the dramatic change that Christ has made in the heart of His disciples.

II. Examine Your Heart (5:28)

G. Examine your heart in the light of Scripture.

III. Fight Your Sinful Desires (5:29-30)

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D. "What then does Jesus mean? Just this: we are to deal drastically with sin. We must not pamper it, flirt with it, enjoy nibbling a little of it around the edges. We are to hate it, crush it, dig it out" (D. A. Carson).

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F. I recommend the book entitled The Lust of the Flesh: Thinking Biblically about Sexual Orientation, Attraction, and Temptation written by Dr. Jared Moore.

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H. Start with the gospel. Understand the gospel. Understand repentance. Understand the fight.

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4) Sing Scripture (Ephesians 5:15-21).

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7) See and enjoy God through common grace.

8) See and enjoy God through special grace.

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J. Fight your sinful desires.

Conclusion

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B. You cannot love your lust and look into the face of Jesus at the same time. The glory and the majesty of our Savior will vaporize that sin.

Conclusion

C. “Let us walk properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Romans 12:13-14).

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D. The Gospel Definition

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.