

Sermon on the Mount: Lust (5:27-30)

1 INTRODUCTION

- I. We live in a culture that is driven by sex
 - a. Movies. Television. Music. Clothing. Internet. Literally everywhere you look.
 - b. Sex is good and proper, but within God's parameters (marriage)
 - i. But we look at the culture around us and wonder why we see these things:
 - ii. <http://katu.com/news/local/gresham-man-accused-of-inappropriately-touching-girl-aboard-american-airlines-flight-chad-cameron-camp>
 - iii. <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/watchman-on-the-wall/49866-pastor-commits-suicide-in-church-owned-home-after-admitting-adultery>
- II. How did we get to this point?
 - a. Easy to blame the culture around us – we try to assume the “victim” role (excuse)
 - b. True, there are serious issues with how our culture views sex, but there is a deeper and more personal issue
 - i. Jesus is going to bring the point back to us, and ask us to examine our heart
 - ii. In one way or another, each of us at some point has struggled with lust
 - iii. This morning, continuing in the teachings of Jesus, and going to focus on the problem of lust in the heart.

2 EXEGETICAL EXAMINATION OF 5:27-30

- I. Jesus begins with the same pattern as we say earlier when he addressed anger
 - a. “You have heard it said” – a direct reference to Exodus 20:14 & Duet. 5:18
 - i. 7th in the list of 10 commandments – shall not commit adultery
 1. We understand adultery is sexual activity outside of your marriage
 2. In many ways a form of theft – taking a wife/man that does not belong to you
 - ii. Was punishable by death under the law
 1. Duet. 22:22; Lev. 20:10
 2. Malachi 2:13-16 Judah's unfaithfulness was likened to adultery
 - b. “But I say unto you” – whoever looks at a woman with lustful intent
 - i. Look (βλέπων) is not just a glance, but careful consideration/keep on looking
 1. Same use of the word found in Matt. 6:1
 2. Purpose of good deeds to get others to applaud you...in this case the purpose of the looking is to lust after the one you are looking at
 - ii. Lust (ἐπιθυμῆσαι) is to covet, desire greatly, crave.
 1. Israel should have understood this from Exodus 20:17 “not covet neighbor's wife”
 2. Even Job understood the problem of lust – Job 31:1

- iii. Christ calls for a change in the heart of a believer – not enough to simply not commit adultery
 - 1. Mark 7:20-23 – adultery begins in the heart
 - 2. But we already stand guilty before God if we don't change our heart
- II. Illustration of the eye and the hand (vv. 29-30)
 - a. What is the point behind this? And why use these two illustrations?
 - i. The eye was commonly associated with leading us astray
 - 1. Matt. 6:22 – lamp to the body
 - 2. Ezek. 20:8 – evil their eyes feasted upon
 - ii. The hand likewise is closely associated with sin, particularly sexual sins
 - 1. Is Jesus saying we should literally cut out our eye and hand?
 - 2. Yes and no – the point is to do whatever it takes to remove stumbling blocks aiding you in lusting in your heart!
 - b. Matt. 18:7-9 make this more clear what Jesus is referring to
 - i. It doesn't matter what you have to do, it is better than the alternative (hell)
 - ii. This alone does not fix the heart (will discuss in a moment) but the heart cannot be fixed without this step!

3 APPLICATION: HOW TO CHANGE A LUSTFUL HEART?

- I. We must take sexual sin seriously (all sin for that matter)
 - a. Heb. 13:4 – the marriage bed is to be undefiled!
 - i. God will judge the adulterer, even at heart (1 Cor. 6:9-10)
 - ii. If we don't take this seriously, we will make no changes
 - b. 1 Cor. 6:18-20 Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
 - i. You do not belong to yourself, you have been bought by the Lord
 - ii. If we don't remember that, we will be careless with our bodies
- II. Be careful little eyes what you see
 - a. Matt. 6:22-23 – if your eye is bad, the whole body is bad!
 - i. What we watch/view has a direct impact on how we think & act
 - ii. We are to take no part in unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5)
 - b. We have got to cut out anything in our lives that helps cause us to stumble
 - i. Computer. Smartphone. Mall. Beach. Gym. People (1 Cor. 15:33)
 - ii. Do not set yourself up for failure, or you will fail!
 - c. 1 Cor. 6:18 – FLEE fornication, NOT RUN TO IT!
 - i. Stay as far away from temptation as possible, whether you struggle or not
 - ii. The time to master over sin is before it ever has mastery over you (Prov. 5)
- III. Allow Christ to be Lord of our hearts
 - a. Simply removing the source does not remove the problem (heart issue)
 - i. Just as you don't have to have money to love it, you don't have to see to lust
 - ii. We have to change the way that we think, change from the inside out
 - b. Rom. 12:2 – we are transformed by the renewing of our minds
 - i. 2 Cor. 10:5 – Christ takes every thought captive
 - ii. Phil. 4:8 – must replace what we think about with what is good!