

Radical Surgery for Lust
Matthew 5:27-30

- I. A Disciple’s Characteristics: 8 Blessings (5:1-12)
- II. A Disciple’s Influence: 2 Metaphors (5:13-16)
- III. **A Disciple’s Righteousness** (5:17-48)

A. The Kingdom Standard: Must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (5:20)

| | SCRIBAL RELIGION | KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS |
|----------------|---|--|
| Concept: | R = Outward conformity to God’s Law | R = Inward conformity to God’s character |
| Role of Law | Means of gaining God’s (and man’s) approval | 1. Reveals God’s character 2. Exposes Man’s heart |
| Approach | 1. Interpret the Law 2. Work harder | 1. Explain Law’s intent 2. Invite repentance and faith 3. Transform hearts |
| Standard: | Comparison to Traditions | Perfect fulfillment of Law |
| Results | 1. Focus on details 2. Promote comparison 3. Feeling of uncertainty | 1. Focus on character 2. Promote compassion 3. Feeling of resolution |
| God’s Response | Resistance | Grace |

B. Six Contrasting Illustrations (5:21-48)

- 1. Murder: Replace Anger/Abusive Speech with Reconciliation and Nurture of persons and relationships
- 2. Adultery:

I. Keys to Understanding the Illustrations

II. Illustration #2: The Seventh Commandment – “You shall not commit adultery”

- A. Tradition: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’.” (Mat 5:27).
 - 1. The seventh commandment prohibited sexual intercourse with a person who was married to someone else.
 - a. The commandments were grounded in the character of the _____ God (Ex. 20:1-2)
 - b. The “sin” in adultery is not sex, but rather the breaking of the _____.
 - c. The seriousness of the sin is indicated by its _____ (Lev. 20:10; Dt. 22:22; Gal. 5:19)
 - 2. The case against adultery
 - a. It is _____ by God (see Gen. 39:9)
 - b. Any relationship or society in which covenants may be broken with impunity is doomed to _____.
 - c. Sexual sin on the part of the believer shatters the _____ of the relationship between Christ and his church (Eph. 5:23-32; 2 Cor. 11:2) and violates his/her oneness with _____ (1 Cor. 6:15-20)
 - d. Adultery reaps bitter _____ (Gal. 6:7-9; 2 Sam. 11-19)
 - 3. The point of the Pharisees was, if you have not committed adultery, you are, by definition, keeping the law and are therefore righteous. We see this in the Rich Young Ruler. (Luk 18:18ff; Mat 19:16ff).

B. Correction: "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (28)

1. What Jesus did NOT mean

- a. That sexual _____ is wrong (Gen. 1:27-28)
- b. That sexual relations with one's own _____ is wrong (Heb. 13:4)
- c. That he was restricting his comments to _____ only.

2. When Jesus DID mean: The sin is lustful intent in the _____

- a. The actual word, *epithumia*, is translated "_____ " in the tenth commandment.
- b. It is not to be equated with temptation, but is rather one's _____ to temptation (Jas 1:13-15)
- c. It may be defined as "intentionally _____ another person for one's own gratification."
 - 1) It is the opposite of _____.
 - 2) It views the other not as a person but as an _____.

3. Jesus' first point: True Righteousness is a matter of the heart. Mere avoidance of physical adultery does not fulfill the intent of God's Law. The sin of lust disqualifies most people from the Kingdom.

C. Application: Don't deal with lust _____ (23-26). (This is Jesus' second point.)

1. What Jesus Did NOT mean: _____ (Origin of Alexandria)

2. What Jesus DID mean.

a. Get to the heart of the matter – the _____ (Mark 7:21-23)

- 1) Repent and _____ the kingdom of heaven (Mat. 4:17)
- 2) Receive and cultivate a _____ (Mat. 5:8)

b. In pursuit of God's rule and righteous (Mat. 6:33), deal drastically with lust through godly _____ (Colossian 3:1-11: "_____").

- 1) The "eye" is the gate of temptation (especially for men) – guard what you _____ and _____ you look (Job 31:1)
- 2) The "hand" may represent that aspect of adultery that constitutes _____ – don't take what doesn't belong to you.

c. The seriousness of heart-sin is conveyed by the repeated statement of a severe _____: your whole body could be thrown into hell (Gal 5:19-21)

III. Kingdom principles

A. The sin of *epithumia* is not restricted to _____. Lust often involves objectifying a _____; but it can also involve objectifying a _____.

B. The temptation to sexual lust flairs up whenever I revert from the Kingdom of God to the Kingdom of _____. An intense battle with such temptation is a _____ that I am seeking something other than his rule and righteousness to fulfill my hunger and thirst for life satisfaction.

C. Sexual temptation usually has a very narrow focus. To break its hypnotic pull, I must _____.

D. Kingdom righteousness is not about avoided rule-breaking. It is about cultivating _____ of heart expressed in _____ that cares for (not _____) the other.