



Lust and Adultery

Aug 31

INTRODUCTION: As Kingdom citizens Jesus's disciples have Kingdom characteristics. Through these we add savour and shine in the world. We grow in righteousness through following the law by the Spirit's help. For the rest of Mt 5 Jesus interacts with 6 contemporary areas of the Law to retrieve their original meaning for citizens of the Kingdom to attain by faith.

REMEMBER: Given the widespread sexual immorality and sexualization of our age, the personal nature of sin and our own fallenness, seek to be truthful but also gracious in this study. Remember, in Christ we can find forgiveness (1 Jn 1:9, 2:1) and the renewing help of the Holy Spirit to overcome all sin (Jn 16).

CHALLENGE: In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Jer 12:1b)

- Have you ever lamented as Jeremiah?
- How is Jeremiah's context key to understanding his lament?
- What is Lament?
- What is at the heart of Jeremiah's lament?
- What is the end of the wicked and how does this help us in this kind of a lament?

READ: Mt 5:27–30

QUESTIONS:

1. *V. 27- a reference to the 7th commandment. Jesus spoke into a Jewish world where outward forms of chastity were often observed but not the heart, which was the intent of the Law (Ex 20:17; 1 Sam 16:7; Ps 19:14, 24:4). Most Jews married early and so the primary issue was adultery and not sexual immorality/fornication.*
2. What is the difference between adultery and sexual immorality?
3. *V. 28- The Bible clearly reserve the good expression of sexuality for marriage (Gen 2:24; Prov 5:15–19; SS 8:5; 1 Cor 7:9; Heb*

13:4). Can you give examples of how our culture openly rebels from this design?

4. **Is it wrong to acknowledge the physical beauty of someone? Using clues in our passage what is the difference between attraction and lust?**
5. Read Prov 6:25. How is this a helpful verse for defining lust?
6. Why is adultery wrong and harmful?
7. **Jesus focuses on men. Is lust exclusive to them? If not, how does lust effect men and women differently?**
8. Why is lust the root of adultery and therefore sinful?
9. *V. 29–30- The right meant powerful; the eye=the medium of lust; the hand= the mode (i.e. theft).*
10. *The Church Father Origen (AD 195–254) took Jesus literally and castrated himself. How does removing the right eye not resolve the heart issue ?*
11. **Jesus is using hyperbole/overstatement to make a point, which is what?**
12. *A reminder to those who persist in unrepented sin (Gal 5:19–21; Rev 22:15)*
13. *The Puritan John Owen once said, “get to killing sin or sin will get to killing you.” (c.f. Col 3:5) Discuss.*
14. *Given how powerful our sexual desire can be and also the prevalence of lust in our culture the following are noted as ways to combat lust and adultery. Discuss.*
 - a. Repent
 - b. Prayer (especially for self-control)
 - c. Know what the Bible says/memorize
 - d. Be convinced of the seriousness of this sin
 - e. Resolve to destroy it (mortification of sin)
 - i. Ro 8:13; 1 Cor 9:27)
 - f. Avoid triggers and unhelpful situations
 - g. Be accountable
 - h. Confess your sin
 - i. Be content
 - j. Seek Christian counselling

Next Week: Lust (Divorce, Mt 5:31–32)