

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5-7

Sexual Responsibility

Matthew 5:27-32

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You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Matthew 5:27-32, continued

It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

The Sermon on the Mount

- Not a backdoor into “Christian legalism”
- Christ is kicking the crutch of legalism from underneath us
- He is showing us our need of grace
- He is teaching us the need of faith
- He is teaching personal moral responsibility
- He is teaching us the path to a happy and blessed life on earth

Seek God's Righteousness

- **“By grace are you saved through faith” (Eph. 2:8).**
- **“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33).**
- **“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested... the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift...”(Romans 3:21-24)**

Christ's teaching on sexual responsibility

- **Sexual responsibility starts in the mind**
- **Sexual responsibility is a serious matter**
- **Sexual responsibility involves a life-long faithful relationship with one person**

God's promise of cleansing

- **“If anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.” (2 Tim. 2:21)**

1. Sexual responsibility starts in the mind, 5:27-28

- The Mind – center of thought, feelings, values, and decisions
- “As a man thinks, so is he” (Prov. 23:7)
- Three powerful influences in today’s world
 - Advertisements
 - Hedonistic lifestyle
 - Liberal “Christian” ethics

Satan's Plan

- Satan wants us to develop a pattern of obeying our desires rather than God's direction.
- Satan wants us to underestimate the power and importance of temptation.
- Satan wants to destroy trust between husband and wife.
- Satan wants us to overestimate our power to resist, to deceive us with lust.

The Bible says

- **“Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?” (Prov. 6:27)**
- **“But each man is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death” (James 1:14-15).**

2. Sexual responsibility comes from God

- God renews our hearts to love the things we should.
- “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Romans 12:2)
- “The eye is the lamp of the body” (Matt. 6:22)
- The problem is serious, so the remedy is drastic.

Pulling down strongholds

- “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds ... take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Cor. 10:4-5)
- Pompey 75-67 B.C., destroyed the strongholds of the Cilician Pirates.
- The final battle, The Battle of Coracesium, Pompey had 200 vessels against 1,000 pirate vessels. Outnumbered, he won nonetheless.

God can pull down the sinful strongholds of your life

- Ask God for help, “abundantly” (John 10:10)
- Walk in the Spirit, “To set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace” (Romans 8:6)
- Die to lust, “For one who has died has been set free from sin” (Romans 6:7)
- Renew your mind, “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2)
- Resist and Flee, “Flee from sexual immorality” (1 Cor. 6:18).

3. A lifelong faithful relationship with one person

- Marriage is cheapened in today's world.
- Marriage is not "serial fidelity" but lifelong fidelity.
- God can redeem your marriage.
- The potter: "The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do."
(Jer. 18:4)

God's promise of cleansing

- **“If anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.” (2 Tim. 2:21)**