

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S7E28

Adultery begins in the Heart - Matthew 5:27-30

Description – Join us today as we look at Matthew 5:27-30, looking at what Jesus was teaching on Adultery

Matthew 5:27-30

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery.** ²⁸ But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ 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 the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Remember, who is Jesus going after when he’s correcting these teachings? The Scribes and the Pharisees, who have taught the law, but have missed the heart of the law.

So what is adultery? Is it just sexual intercourse with someone who isn’t your spouse? Or is it more than that? Does kissing someone who you’re in an emotional relationship or having feelings for someone other than your spouse classify as adultery?

When Jesus says, “You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery.**” He’s directly quoting from the 10 commandments.

Adultery was considered sexual intercourse with someone other than your spouse, either you’re married or they are married.

Adultery is one of the big 3 sins in the Jewish world.

1. Murder
2. Worship False gods or idols
3. Adultery

According to Deuteronomy 22:22, the penalty for adultery was death, for both the man and woman.

But what about John 8:2-11?

The Scribes and Pharisees bring a woman caught in the act of adultery to Jesus to stone her, which would have been following the law, but where was the man? Why did they bring only the woman?

Jesus says here in Matthew 5 that it's more than just the physical action of sexual adultery, it begins in the heart and the mind.

It's not just the action, it's the attitude.

The underlying attitude and thought life can be just as sinful as the physical act.

Matthew 5:28

²⁸ But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

"Looks" - Greek word, "blepó" - means To see, to look at, to behold, to perceive.

Example - David & Bathsheba - David stares and longs and gazes at her. And then, he inquires about her, finds out she's married, and still chooses to take her as his own.

David found his true character when he did this, because he was in a moment where no one was around him and no one could see what he was doing.

Jesus says it's a sin of the mind.

Jesus uses hyperbole here to talk about removing your right eye, your right hand.

If you want to change your actions, change your mindset.

When Jesus talks about Hell here notice a few things:

1. Hell is a real place
2. You don't stop off at Purgatory before you visit hell.

How do we combat adultery? We change our minds, we fill our minds and meditate on the word.

Every sin in life you can trace back to idolatry in your life. If we're in the word, reading the word, studying the word, knowing the truth and having the power of the Holy Spirit then we will naturally grow.

We're trying to actively kill sin in our lives. John Owens said, "You be killing sin, or sin will kill you."