

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
SoM, Part 14: Greater Righteousness, Part 2

Last time...Greater Righteousness (the heart and mind of God) that is required to enter into the Kingdom of heaven

- The King's Righteousness
- Spirit of the Law vs Letter of the Law
- 1st Topic: Murder...a matter of the heart, committed by hands and tongues

This time...2nd topic: Adultery (Ch 5:27-30)

Many or most would say, "Oh, I have never done that and never would!"
Well, let's hear what the Lord has to say before we speak so rashly.

v27 Ye have heard...by them of old time:

Again, the plural "you"

Jesus is speaking to everyone who hears His voice/words...
in that day and place AND in this day and place

Thou shalt not commit adultery:

Commandment #7 written in stone by the finger of God (Ex 20:14)

The breaking of the marriage contract

- One man and one woman unto death
- Two become one...in body and soul
- "One" is torn asunder by infidelity with a 3rd party...
causing terrible damage in the lives of many people

The marriage contract preceded the Law given on Mount Sinai

From the very beginning (Gen 2:24), it was "hardwired" in man's conscience

Gen 12:10-20 death in v12

Gen 20:1-7

Gen 26:10-11 Isaac also with king of the Philistines

Gen 39:7-12

Then the Creator's "hardwiring" was codified in the written Law of God
and taught by the teachers of Israel

Ex 20:14 and Deut 5:18

Lev 18:20 shall not lie carnally with neighbor's wife to defile self

Lev 20:10 (death to both parties, the man and woman)

Since the fall of man, the heart of man has been full of

- lasciviousness: filthy wantonness (lewdness, “loose”)
- concupiscence: lust of the flesh
- licentiousness: unrestrained immoral sexuality

Adultery was a problem in

- ancient times (“sin of the Amorites” – worship of pagan gods was always sensual/sexual; orgy on Mount Sinai)
- Greek culture: deify/glorify the human body (gymnasiums)
- Roman culture (time of Jesus’ ministry): Greek culture, bathhouses as it is today in our immodest, obscene, sex-obsessed culture

The satisfaction of the legal requirement of God for adulterers is...death

v28 But I say unto you:

A Greater Righteousness above and beyond the letter of the Law directly from the Lawgiver, not from a spokesman/prophet who said “Thus saith the LORD”

whosoever looketh...to lust...in his heart:

Notice that Jesus seems to be speaking most directly to the men/males/husbands

- He is the Creator, the God of order (1 Cor 11:3, 8; 1 Cor 14:33, 40)
- Man is more visual and carnal than woman, who is more relational
- His to-be-revealed devotion for His Bride is to be seen in the husband (Eph 5:25-27)

But let it be known, my sisters: this cuts both ways...women are not “immune” so you must also pay close attention

1 Cor 11:11-12 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman *is* of the man, even so *is* the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

Jesus is teaching that anyone who so much as looks at

- sees with a self-indulgent, self-gratifying motive
- chooses to gaze (checks out) with lustful fantasy
- covets in his heart

a woman who is not his wife is also guilty of adultery

- breaking the marriage contract established by God from the very beginning
- breaking the Law of God
- attacking the “image of God” (man = 1 male + 1 female)

Therefore, adultery not only breaks the 7th Commandment, it breaks the 10th Commandment (Thou shalt not covet)

Covetousness for the things of the fallen world is

- a corrupt love...Self-ish vs Self-less and Self-last
- a lust for that which is not given...a forbidden desire
- self-gratification
 - pleasing Self vs pleasing God
 - Self (flesh) is Lord vs God is Lord

It was the revelation of the 10th Commandment that broke the self-righteous pride of Saul of Tarsus

Rom 7:7 I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Lest you single folks think you are not in danger of committing adultery and can “sit this one out”

- you cannot escape v28...”whosoever”
- you cannot escape the 10th Commandment
- in the eyes of God, fornication is adultery
 - sexual relations outside the marriage contract
 - corrupt love
 - lust, a forbidden desire/longing
 - self-gratification
- Heb 13:4 Marriage *is* honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

As with the sin of murder, the sin of adultery starts in the heart with a corrupt motive and thought...guilt comes long before any action

Do blind men have lust in their hearts for women?

Do amputees or paralyzed persons harbor sexual lust in their hearts?

Do Muslim men in Saudi Arabia, where women are completely covered except for their eyes (even then sometimes)?

Matt 15:18-20a

It is an offense against God that starts in a heart corrupted by the sin nature
According to the Law, all the world is guilty before God (Rom 3:19)

Gal 5:19-21

Gal 6:7-8

Rom 8:5-8

Adultery is a sin against God that has a carnal manifestation...body and soul
It also has a spiritual manifestation

As Eph 5:32 reveals, the marriage contract is a shadow of the “one”-ness
between the Bridegroom Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Church
Adultery is a breaking of the spiritual marriage contract

Israel is our example (1 Cor 10:1-11)

Num 25:1-3

Deut 6:4-6, 12-15

Judges 2:10-17

repeated cycles

Ps 106:34-43

“condensed” history of Israel’s walk with
the Lord

Jer 3:8-9

Jer 9:1-6

Jer 13:25-27

Ezk 16:32

Ezk 20:30-31, 43

Ezk 23:35-37

Hosea

the life of “Joshua/Jesus” as an object lesson

Hosea 2:2

Hosea 3:1

Hosea 4:1-14

Therefore we are instructed in righteousness by the Word of God

2 Cor 6:14-18

James 4:4

Col 3:5-6

Even the unacted upon thought is an act of the flesh

Resulting in an unclean body and an unclean spirit

Body and spirit were created by God

Defiling either/both is an offense against the jealous God

Adultery is a carnal sin and a spiritual sin

It is an offense for which the Lamb of God paid with His blood...

an offense removed from us as far as the east is from the west,
by grace thru faith

Yet we have a responsibility...Greater Righteousness is not just who we are
(in Christ) it is what we do...in body and in spirit

v29-30 if they right eye...right hand:

Is Jesus Christ the Lamb of God and our Kinsman-Redeemer speaking literally?

Does literal self-mutilation please God and satisfy His jealousy?

Is literal self-mutilation an acceptable sacrifice for our sin?

Did the Lamb of God come to take away the sin of the world as the Father's sin sacrifice...provided we mutilated ourselves as a part of our co-payment for sin?

Would self-mutilation affect our thoughts and motives and intents (lust)?

As we reason with God (Is:1:18), Jesus is speaking figuratively

Reading our Bibles carefully and rightly dividing the Word of Truth,

Jesus did not say "has"...after-the-fact of committing the sin of adultery

He said "if"...to be thought out before the sin occurs, cut off the cause

Be proactive, be protective

Be like Job (Job 31:1)...make a contract with your eyes

Because our eyes

- cannot be trusted...illusionists
- will betray us...stumble us, cause us to sin
- seem to have a "mind of their own"...see what want to see

Prov 27:20 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Ecc 1:8 the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing

"Just one look" is a snare, a deception

Jesus will teach Matt 16:24...

- anti-covetousness
- denial of self vs indulgence of self

He is teaching: Cut off the unclean members...thoughts and motives, members of the inner man vs outer man

Be protective of your walk with the Lord... the "eye gate" is under siege!

Be proactive in your walk against the flesh, the devil, and the world...

- Internet porn, TV, movies
- grocery store "news"
- fashion and advertising

Because sin is no joke...hell is no joke

Let us acknowledge, confess, and repent of our adulteries...carnal and spiritual

Heb 4:12 the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Ps 51:1-4, 10-12, 17 not a mutilated body

Rom 13:13-14 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfill* the lusts *thereof*.

Let us rejoice in the grace of God...and not take it as license to commit adultery

John 1:17

John 8:1-11

Rom 5:20-21 where sin abounded, grace did much more abound, through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord

Rom 7:14, 18-25 I am carnal, in my flesh no good, who save me?

Rom 10:4 the complete and perfect satisfaction of the requirement of God (Ch 5:17)

1 Cor 6:9-11

Let us be proactive and protective of our walk with the Lord

1 Cor 6:18-20

Rom 12:2

1 Cor 9:25-27

2 Cor 10:3-5

flee like Joseph fled

be not conformed but transformed by the renewing of our minds

our weapons are not carnal but spiritual

Let us make contracts with and guard our

- eyes
- minds
- hearts

Prov 6:26-32

Ps 66:18

if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me

Let us walk by faith (inner man) and not by sight (outer man)
Let us walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal 5:16)

We can trust the faith of Jesus and put our faith in Jesus
We cannot trust our eyes or our flesh and put our faith in our Selves

During our closing song, let us break into groups of no more than 4 and pray...
with and for each other
Let us leave here in one accord with the Lord God Almighty