

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

More Profitable For You

Matthew 5:27-32

Previously:

- Healings, now up on a mountain
- Beatitudes - supreme blessedness, or happiness
- Salt & light

How do we measure if we're good or not?

- Driving record, Jail time
- Friend's little brother had perfect attendance in high school (yes, teased him about it)
- Savings account, Resume
- Comparison to others? Someone awful? How about Jesus?

Last week murder begins in the heart

Jesus is talking about heart matters.

What's in your heart matters to God - and it affects all you are

And it shows we're not perfect.

1 Samuel 16:7b For [the LORD does] not [see] as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Today is PG-13, and may be a little hard to hear. Jesus is not condemning, he's revealing that we truly need a savior - Him.

[Pray]

5:27-28

You have heard that it was said to those of old...

When we read the Bible, we're reading God's Word. It was spoken to people in former times directly, written down, and preserved for us.

But it's just as much for them then as it is us today

Times change, but the human heart hasn't...

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 NKJV - That which has been [is] what will be, That which [is] done is what will be done, And [there is] nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this [is] new"? It has already been in ancient times before us.

What Jesus is teaching here, is just as applicable today

Ray Comfort, witnessing...by your own admission...guilty

Remember - it's the heart matter that concerns God the most

Because everything else flows out of that.

If you reject hate, you'll never murder.

If you reject lust, you'll never leave your marriage.

We'll talk more about marriage at the end today

Lust IS adultery in the heart. Imagining, desiring, daydreaming, fantasizing about the act, the relationship. Living it out in your heart.

God says do not...commit adultery

If he's telling us to do or not to do, we need to understand it so we don't commit it.

Remember - he's not telling us to obey for his good necessarily,

he's telling us to obey for our good

Adultery - being intimate with another person's spouse

Ok, we'll who's another person's spouse?

#1 someone who's married

Love at first sight or

You're the person for me!

And #1, if you're married, they are the person for you. Even if your relationship wasn't Godly, you guys didn't know God, etc. etc...

As we used to say playing A&A - once you commit, that it is it!

But what if you're not married yet?

This passage covers a lot...

1 Corinthians 7:1-9 NKJV - Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: [It is] good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband [does]. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife [does]. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you

because of your lack of self-control. But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn [with passion].

It's pretty clear - straightforward

The entirety of 1st Corinthians 7 says A LOT about marriage.
Living as you are called.

In the Christian pursuit, Paul's desire is that folks would see and desire the glory of not being married and serving God 100%

Otherwise, gotta split your time and effort in a sense - serving God, serving wife and family

Much easier to follow, at any cost, without any worldly responsibility. Yet, it is not for everyone.

This is the problem with the "priesthood" and abuse. Most people are called to marry, and being married and having children is holy. too.

Said 3x in Song of Solomon

Song of Songs 2:7 NLT - Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and wild deer, not to awaken love until the time is right.

Kids movies - Disney movies were largely fantasies about finding the right man or woman and getting whisked off your feet to be married. Training children to think this is how real love works. Even adult rom-coms

If our heart is awakened too early, it can lead to a lifetime of lust.

Looking for the wrong relationship, or even the right relationship at the wrong time, to fill a God-given need

That's sin.

Remember there are different kinds of love in the greek - but English wraps it all up into one word

Storge - familial love

Phileo - brotherly love/friendship

Eros - physical desire

Agape - special word for God's love

Marriage - should be a mix of all of these. They are your sister/brother in the Lord and a lot like you potentially, your best friend, your lover, and most importantly, one who inspires you in your walk with God

So no, love *is not* love

Finding the right person takes time. And ideally, it's an arranged marriage from your heavenly father. Who knows you both the best. And what you really need, want, and is the right kind of attraction for you.

Dating vs. courtship

Taking a bite vs. being careful and seeing if the person is who you think they are

Marriage is the 2nd most important decision you'll make

It affects the rest of your life

Always connected

Hands folding - spiritual, mental, emotional, physical

You need to be attracted to each other - but so often we put it together in the wrong order and have committed all before you realize they think one way and it's not reconcilable.

Genesis 2:22-24 NKJV - Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This [is] now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

The physical act isn't just a physical act. It's a spiritual one primarily.

The physical act ratifies the spiritual.

Paper ripping - a part of you goes with them and them with you...forever

Marriage to God is not a legal contract with the government or even each other.

It's a spiritual covenant with Him, created by Him.

There's three people in your marriage. You, your spouse, and God.

There's also a connection with idolatry

Pagan worship - the temples had prostitutes to go commit acts of "worship" in front of the idol

Proverbs 7 - speaking of the harlot, the adultress (just as much a man or a woman in your life)

Proverbs 7:24-27 NKJV - Now therefore, listen to me, [my] children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths; For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong [men]. Her house [is] the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 30:20 NKJV - This [is] the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wickedness."

Healthy relationships...

1 Timothy 5:1-2 NKJV - Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort [him] as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 NKJV - Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make [them] members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body [with her]? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit [with Him]. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit [who is] in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Flee sexual immorality. That's the only cure.

Running away from it. (Joseph)

Jesus is talking about lust here...in your heart.

Looking and lusting...is sin.

Even if you're not married.

That is someone's daughter/son. Someone's sister/brother. And truthfully, one day, someone else's wife/husband.

It's not the first thought that's sin. It's dwelling on it. Looking again.

In our day and age, it's hard not to see something. It's everywhere. It's on purpose.

Sex sells - advertising, longer views, clickbait

Women and men are advertising their sexual availability - knowingly or not - by how they dress and act. If you're not for sale or giving it away for free, then why dress like you are?

Does that mean you should dress like a puritan? Well, maybe. Modesty can come in many forms.

But why would you put yourself out there for others to see? Why does anyone but your spouse need to see that? Or why would you want anyone to look at you like that?

Aren't you worth more?

Now you can't stop people from looking or thinking...

but you don't need to easily entice them into those thoughts.

Proverbs 11:22 NKJV - [As] a ring of gold in a swine's snout, [So is] a lovely woman who lacks discretion.

Bouncing eyes, Instead of lusting - Pray for them

The world wants you to lust. Be enslaved by it. Can't even go on certain social media, read the news, watch an ad, etc. etc. Our society is hyper sexualized. So much so, that schools are sexualizing children in perverse ways - without their parent's knowledge.

Stew on that for a minute.

God designed sexual desire. But it's so powerful. So connected to who we are.

And how we're able to rightly see Him and those around us - that it can only be contained within the safety of marriage. **It's a wild fire - able to create life itself.**

Lust / idolatry/ abortion

:29-30

We can still lust even if we didn't have our eyes anymore

But Jesus is making the point, that even something as valuable as your eyesight - if you can't control it - it's worth making yourself blind to avoid the judgment.

Just stop

Cast the sin off. Throw it away. Do whatever it takes to get away from it.

Proverbs 6:27-29 NKJV - Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? So [is] he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.

:31-32

The religious leaders let men divorce their wives if they were bad cooks!

Having an official piece of paper doesn't mean it's right

The government of men cannot make or change ordinances of God

Remember - marriage is not a legal contract, it's a spiritual one

And God made man and woman only and made marriage for one man and one woman only.

Today humanity tries to make people into things that they aren't - physical attributes don't change who you are. Feelings don't make you something you're not. I guarantee all of these modern ills started with...lust.

Jesus says this about divorce: there's only one reason, and that's sexual immorality.

Bible talks about abandonment as well, I think Jesus is focused on lust and adultery in the heart - and what does that look like

Physical abuse - he's abandoned her physically, emotionally, spiritually - but divorce is still the last resort

If you're taking care of your spouse spiritually, you won't abandon each other physically, mentally or emotionally

But if the spiritual is not being met - the rest are fair game to fall apart

Ash and I agreed early on to never say the D-word. Again, there's a power to words, and if you start thinking it, then saying it, eventually you might be OK doing it.

God will never tell you to leave your spouse if they're being faithful - even if they're not a believer.

Famous Christians have thought they've married the wrong person (maybe they were the wrong person before the knot) and married another

This isn't to condemn you if you've gotten divorced.

But Jesus is saying there's a better way - the way of love.

Matthew 19:3-10 NKJV - The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for [just] any reason?" And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made [them] at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "**Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."** His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with [his] wife, it is better not to marry."

Oh the disciples! Ha!

That in the Christian world - because of the power of forgiveness - even sexual immorality doesn't mean there HAS to be divorce. It just means that the covenant was completely broken and so were hearts and minds and lives.

Sometimes those pieces can't be picked up.

There's an opportunity for reconciliation in divorce. If they've been remarried, probably not a good idea if they got divorced again...

All this in light of our relationship with God

Jesus and the church - married

Jesus would never divorce us

Adultery and idolatry - synonymous in the old testament

Leaving God and leaving your wife

A healthy relationship with God will give you a healthy relationship with each other.

And where there has been failure. There is forgiveness. Jesus forgives. Became that sin. And he doesn't want anyone ruined by it. Lives destroyed by it.

Because yes it affects us, but it also affects the children.

How many adults are messed up because as children, their parents messed up and got divorced.

There's probably countless more studies on any one of these points.

- *The effects on children, society, STDs, abortion, spread of perversion, judgment on nations and peoples...*

*Yes, the **consequences/repercussions** in life of a lustful look and thought are different than outright adultery - just like hate and murder - but one thing leads to another*

Galatians 5:9 NKJV - A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Jesus says, it is profitable for you...pluck it out, cut it off, cast it from you

Don't let a little desire turn into a lifetime of ruin

Spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, familiarly, ministerially

God wants good for you.

He wants you to profit - in family, in the spirit, in love, in heavenly reward

And by God's standards, in reality, in truth - we're all sinners.

Even if we've never been with someone else's spouse, we've all committed it in our hearts

And if we say we haven't, then fine, we're just lying, and equally broken the commands

But there is a way. Jesus.