

“AMERICA’S GREATEST KILLER”

“The Heart of Adultery”

- Matthew 5:27-30

**Let’s listen to Jesus defend the sanctity of marriage
and decry the reality of adultery**

I. BE AWARE! > Jesus’ Definition of Adultery (28)

A. The CONTRAST to the Old Testament > “But I say...”

1. The OT focused on the act of adultery
 - The scribes and Pharisees strictly enforced this element - See John 8:3-11
2. Jesus focused on the attitude or heart of the inner man - See Matthew 15:19

B. The SPECIFICS > Steps of adultery

1. There is Interest: “Looking”
 - The idea is that of staring at or studying a person - See Judges 14:1-3, 16:1
2. There is Intent: “With lust”
 - Looking until a yearning desire is aroused - See II Sam. 11:2
3. There is Iniquity: “Committed adultery”
 - The tense indicates that there was a point in time when the person moved from desire to decision - See James 1:13-15

II. BE ACTIVE! > Jesus’ Prescription for victory over adultery (29-30)

A. UNDERSTAND CHRIST’S LANGUAGE

1. You have to understand the prescription if you are going to follow it
2. Is this literal or figurative language?
3. Why refer to the eye and hand?
 - The eye is the source for coveting and the hand is what takes or steals purity

B. TAKE ACTION AGAINST ADULTERY

1. Deal with adultery as dangerous
 - a. It has “made you stubble” >
 - 1) The wording indicates that which lures you to ruin
 - 2) See Prov. 7:6-23 for a documentary of the dumb dude
 - b. Recognize that the sin has trapped you - See II Peter 2:14-5
 2. Deal with adultery quickly
 - a. As soon as you recognize it take drastic action
 - b. “Tear” and “Throw” are both imperatives that indicate a need for quick action
- Over please >

3. Deal with adultery thoroughly
 - a. You cut it completely out
 - b. You take drastic measures because you want to take no chances
 - c. Be serious in your resolve:
 - 1) Make a covenant with your eyes - Job. 31:1
 - 2) I will set no worthless thing before my eyes - Psalm 101:3
 - 3) Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity - Psalm 119:37-38
 - 4) I discipline my body and make it my slave - I Corinthians 9:27
 - 5) Flee youthful lusts - II Timothy 2:22
4. Deal with adultery or face the consequences
 - a. Better to lose one member than the whole body
 - b. Consider the consequences of continued sin
 - c. Understand that your continued actions may damn you - Colossians 3:5-6

C. KEEP ETERNITY IN MIND

1. Jesus reminds the adulterer of what's to come
2. Don't let the temporal negatively impact your glorious destiny

III. **BE ADVISED !** > Some observations from Jesus' teaching on adultery

A. GOD HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR PURITY

- Jesus' priority was to preserve the sanctity of marriage

B. WE NEED TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST ADULTERY (from v.28)

1. Guard your gaze - Don't stare at sin
2. Guard your desires - Don't develop a taste for sin
3. Guard your heart - Don't become defiled by impurities

C. OUR SOCIETY IS NO FRIEND TO THIS TEACHING

1. Jesus was tightening the demands of the law, our society is loosening its demands
2. Our society encourages lust (28)
 - Accepting the "look but don't touch" philosophy
3. Our society wants to treat sin but not terminate it (29-30)
 - We encourage counseling rather than quitting and cutting!

CONCLUSION: America's greatest killer runs rampant in the streets of our cities and down the aisles of our churches.

Jesus defends marriage and decries adultery

Let us be holy as we consider America's Greatest Killer, the heart of adultery.

Feel free to use these notes for personal study. If you wish to use them for any other purpose, please seek permission from Pastor Circle.