

Sermon on the Mount

Adultery in the Heart

Points to Consider

1. Current Cultural Challenges
2. Ancient Incidents
3. Future Successes

Current Cultural Challenges

The Challenges to living up to the Pharisee interpretation of the law!

Matt 5:27 *You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'*

It was _____ accepted at the time that adultery was sinful and illegal.

John 8:2-6 *Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"*

Jesus was speaking to a Jewish audience that accepted that adultery was morally wrong and _____ punishable.

If Jesus came and spoke to 21st century Americans we would _____ the notion that adultery should be illegal and challenge him that it is morally reprehensible.

We live in a society where sexual purity among young people is no longer expected and in some circles not _____.

We live in a society where infidelity in marriage seems to be a _____ conclusion.

The Challenges to living up to Jesus' clarification of the law

The change in _____ over the centuries has tempted many men to commit adultery in their hearts.

For decades _____ has made it very difficult for men to refrain from lusting.

Over the past several years the _____ has provided a secretive place for people to look at sinful images.

Ancient Incidents

2 Sam 11:1-5 *It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. 2 Then it happened one*

evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. 3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

David was home when his soldiers were fighting battles.

David _____ a beautiful woman bathing. (No Sin)

David _____ about the woman. (Adultery in the heart)

David _____ adultery with the woman (Adultery)

Gen 38:12-16 Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adul-lamite. 13 And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." 14 So she took off her widow's garments, covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife. 15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face. 16 Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law.

Judah sinned when he engaged in married behavior _____ of marriage.

A long period of _____ led to the temptation.

1 Cor 7:5-6 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.

Temptations come when married couples go an extended period of time without rendering due _____ to one another.

2 Sam 13:1-4 After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her. 3 But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man. 4 And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

Amnon committed adultery in the heart by "loving" Tamar in an improper way.

He loved someone he had _____ right to love.

Gen 39:7-9 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

In stark contrast to Amnon, Joseph _____ to lie with someone he had no right to be with.

Joseph realized that such an act would be a sin against _____.

Future Success

Matt 5:29-30 *If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*

We should do _____ it takes to remove temptation from our lives.

Matt 16:24-27 *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

In order to please Christ we must have the ability to _____ ourselves.
We must understand the _____ nature of sin.

Job 31:1-4 *I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman? 2 For what is the allotment of God from above, And the inheritance of the Almighty from on high? 3 Is it not destruction for the wicked, And disaster for the workers of iniquity? 4 Does He not see my ways, and count all my steps?*

We must make a _____ with our eyes because His eyes see everything.
We must be careful not to build close friendships with members of the opposite gender outside of marriage.

Phil 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.*

We must closely _____ what goes in our minds. (Movies, internet, music, friends...)

Matt 5:31-32 *Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*

We must be _____ to our marriages, our children, our spouses, and our God!