

## Sermon—Matthew 5:27-32—Jesus: An Upside-down View of Sex and Marriage

### **I. Context**

- a. Jesus is showing how v. 20 is applied—getting beyond legalism to the heart of the issue
- b. Formula: You have heard that it was said...but I say to you—Jesus making bold claim of ultimate authority to interpret
- c. Two sets of teaching that both deal with God's original and perfect plan for sexuality

### **II. Adultery in the Old Testament—Sex outside of the marriage covenant**

- a. God intended sex to be within the life-long covenant of marriage exclusively between husband & wife (not polyamory); Jewish culture took this seriously (especially compared to Greco-Roman culture), but Jesus takes it a step further.
- b. Adultery doesn't begin in a vacuum, but begins with one entertaining thoughts.
- c. *Genesis 1:23-24* (v.33 considered as marriage vows); *Exod. 20:14*; *Deut. 5:18*

### **III. Lust is the beginning of adultery.**

- a. Lustful thoughts reveal one's heart
- b. Lustful thoughts dehumanize people—they become an object rather than an image-bearer of God (we make them something less than what God intended them to be)
- c. Vv. 29-30—Take extreme measures to protect oneself
  - i. Hyperbole—meant to show how serious it is
  - ii. Don't put self in compromising situations

### **IV. Divorce—Not part of God's original intentions**

- a. Rare occasion it may be a lesser of two evils (most divorces happen in first seven years)
- b. What if I have already been divorced?
  - i. Recognize it was not part of God's intention, but move forward in grace
  - ii. Don't dwell on guilt about your past, God's grace is great!!
  - iii. If able, reconcile as much *as possible* with one's ex-spouse.
- c. Recognize that divorce has deep affects on children.
- d. Make marriage and faithfulness in marriage priority

### **V. So what? How do we apply this to our overly-sexualized culture?**

- a. Might it be true that our culture is way off track with its understanding of sex?
- b. Dare to be different! Draw your wisdom from God's word rather than social media or the marketplace?
- c. Abstinence is hard but possible, and worth it; we can encourage this
- d. Run away from pornography—it will kill your soul (and victimizes others). Get help, get filters, get Covenant Eyes, whatever it takes.
- e. Be cautious with what you fill your mind: movies or shows you stream, romance novels, social media
- f. Those who are married, treat marriage as the highest of priorities!