**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (4)**

**MATTHEW 5: 27-32**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Adultery is more than the physical act. It includes lust.**

**The world in which we live doesn’t make this matter easy for us. Temptation is everywhere.**

**Bottom line: We need to “guard” our hearts- and especially our eyes.**

**THE SCOPE OF ADULTERY (vv.27-30)**

**The religious establishment affirmed the seventh commandment but believed that it could only be broken by “physical” intimacy. (v.27)**

**Jesus: “No, you break the commandment when you look at a person lustfully that you are not married to.” (v.28)**

**Our society actually encourages us to lust.**

1. **A. Carson: “Our advertisements sell by sexual titillation: our bookstores fill the racks with both the salacious and the perverted. The vast majority of pop songs focus on man/woman relations, usually in terms of satisfying sex, physical desire, infidelity, and the like. Into this society Jesus speaks his piercing word: “Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Carson continues: “I write this line with shame: Which one of us is not guilty of adultery?”**

**ACTION STEP: Kingdom people should deal radically with temptation. (vv.29,30)**

**THE PHARISEES WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE; JESUS WITH THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE (MATTHEW 5:31,32; 19:3-9)**

 **There were two schools of thought. The liberal, led by Rabbi Hillel advocated the possibility of divorce for almost any reason. The conservative, led by Rabbi Shammai, took a more strict line. (v.3)**

**The Pharisees, wanting to “test” Jesus asked him what he thought about the matter.**

**Jesus answers with a question- and takes them back to Genesis. (vv.4,5)**

1. **The creation of mankind as male and female (Genesis 1:27)**
2. **The institution of marriage (Genesis 2:24)**

**Jesus:”So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (v.6)**

**JESUS’ POINT: Divorce is not a part of God’s plan, only marriage.**

**The Pharisees counter by referencing Moses. (v.7)**

**Their reference : Deuteronomy 24:1-4**

**Jesus clarifies the intention of Moses. (vv. 8,9)**

**Moses did not “command” but “permitted” you to divorce your wives, and this because of your hardness of heart. (v.8)**

**To divorce and remarry- except for the marital unfaithfulness of your spouse -is to commit adultery. (v.9)**

**LIFE LESSONS**

1. **Marriage is an honorable estate, so also is singleness. (I Corinthians 7:8,9;32-34)**

 **How we live out our lives, whether single or married, is to be made prayerfully.**

1. **Marriage is a serious matter and should not be undertaken lightly. It means committing**

 **yourself to one person, body and soul, for life.**

1. **Believers should marry believers (1 Corinthians 7:39)**

 **Sometimes they don’t, or, an unequal yoking emerges**

 **Case 1 A believer knowingly marries an unbeliever**

 **Case 2 Two unbelievers are married and one becomes a believer**

1. **Adultery is a violation of marriage**

 **In one instance it could actually be physical; in another it could be a Me and Mrs. Jones scenario.**

1. **Adultery is a sufficient, but necessary reason for divorce**

 **Counseling and reconciliation should come first after adultery is exposed.**

 **The “majority” opinion is that adultery is grounds for divorce based on Matthew 19:9**

 **Adultery violates the one flesh principle.**

1. **We all, married or single need to guard our hearts and men need especially to guard**

 **their eyes.**