

Unconventional Jesus: Adultery Notes

Matthew 5:27-30 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; (28) but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (29) "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. (30) "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

INITIAL THOUGHTS:

- The traditional / conventional thinking is stated by Jesus
 - Do not be guilty of adultery
 - Adultery consists of sexual activity between a married person and anyone else.
 - Adultery is also the ultimate in being unfaithful.
- Jesus takes his Father's original law from Moses and tweaks / clarifies / intensifies it to include the seeking a woman and planning a sexual encounter.
- Jesus then gives 2 hyperboles (overstatements).
 - If your eyes makes you sin, get rid of it
 - If you hand causes sins, cut it off
 - It is better to lose body parts that to lose the entire body in hell
 - Neither are literal, but do imply a strong motive to make sure we keep the heart clean.
- After reading BW Johnson, maybe this is not just about adultery, but purity in general. Maybe?
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COMMENTARIES

Robertson's Word Pictures

- **In his heart** (en tēi kardiāi autou). Not just the centre of the blood circulation though it means that. Not just the emotional part of man's nature, **but here the inner man including the intellect, the affections, the will.** This word is exceedingly common in the New Testament and repays careful study always. It is from a root that means to quiver or palpitate. Jesus locates adultery in the eye and heart before the outward act.
- **Causeth thee to stumble** (skandalizei se). ...The substantive (skandalon, from skandalēthron) means the stick in the trap that springs and closes the trap when the animal touches it. Pluck out the eye when it is a snare, cut off the hand, even the right hand. **These vivid pictures are not to be taken literally, but powerfully plead for**

self-mastery. Bengel says: Non oculum, sed scandalizentem oculum. It is not mutilating of the body that Christ enjoins, but control of the body against sin. The man who plays with fire will get burnt. Modern surgery finely illustrates the teaching of Jesus. The tonsils, the teeth, the appendix, to go no further, if left diseased, will destroy the whole body. Cut them out in time and the life will be saved. Vincent notes that “the words scandal and slander are both derived from skandalon. And Wyc. renders, ‘if thy right eye slander thee.’” Certainly slander is a scandal and a stumbling-block, a trap, and a snare.

Vincent Word Studies

- **Offend.** The kindred noun is σκάνδαλον, a later form of σκανδάληθρον, the stick in a trap on which the bait is placed, and which springs up and shuts the trap at the touch of an animal. Hence, generally, a snare, a stumbling-block.
- The words scandal and slander are both derived from σκάνδαλον;

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown

- *Thou shall not commit adultery* — Interpreting this seventh, as they did the sixth commandment, the traditional perverters of the law restricted the breach of it to acts of criminal intercourse between, or with, married persons exclusively. Our Lord now dissipates such delusions.
- *But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her* — with the intent to do so, as the same expression is used in Mat_6:1; or, with the full consent of his will, to feed thereby his unholy desires.
- *hath committed adultery with her already in his heart* — We are not to suppose, from the word here used - “adultery” - that our Lord means to restrict the breach of this commandment to married persons, or to criminal intercourse with such. The expressions, “whosoever looketh,” and “looketh upon a woman,” seem clearly to extend the range of this commandment to all forms of impurity, and the counsels which follow - as they most certainly were intended for all, whether married or unmarried - seem to confirm this.
- *pluck it out and cast it from thee* — implying a certain indignant promptitude, heedless of whatever cost to feeling the act may involve. Of course, it is not the eye simply of which our Lord speaks - as if execution were to be done upon the bodily organ - though there have been fanatical ascetics who have both advocated and practiced this, showing a very low apprehension of spiritual things - but the offending eye, or the eye considered as the occasion of sin; and consequently, only the sinful exercise of the organ which is meant. For as one might put out his eyes without in the least quenching the lust to which they ministered, so, “if thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light,” and, when directed by a holy mind, becomes an “instrument of righteousness unto God.” At the same time, just as by cutting off a hand, or plucking out an eye, the power of acting and

of seeing would be destroyed, our Lord certainly means that we are to strike at the root of such unholy dispositions, as well as cut off the occasions which tend to stimulate them.

B.W. Johnson

- *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* The Jewish rabbins held that a man was guiltless who did not commit the act. Christ, as he always did, lays the laws upon the heart. If it is impure, full of unholy desires, one is guilty. It is our duty to keep the heart pure.
- *If thy right eye offend thee.* The eye that giveth a lustful look. A licentious passion, or anything that tempts to sin, whether thoughts within, friends, or surroundings.
- *Pluck it out.* Cast far from you what would lead to sin.
- *It is profitable.* Better to suffer deep mortification by self-denial than to be judged worthy of hell.

F.B. Meyer

- ...But the Divine Man, who reads the human heart with perfect accuracy, goes behind the deed to its premonitory stages, legislates about the look that may inflame passion, and condemns the soul that does not instantly turn the eye from that which allures it, to the All-Holy, asking to be cleansed not with tears only but with blood. The first act in the religious life is to detect right and wrong in the thought or intention. If the tempter is arrested there, He is powerless to hurt. Kill the snake in the egg!

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

- Victory over the desires of the heart, must be attended with painful exertions. But it must be done. Every thing is bestowed to save us from our sins, not in them. All our senses and powers must be kept from those things which lead to transgression. ...

Preacher's Homiletical

- Mat_5:28. *To lust after her.*—With the intent to do so, as the same expression is used in Mat_6:1; or, with the full consent of his will, to feed thereby his unholy desires (Brown).
- The seventh commandment is next expounded, in like manner, by Christ. Here, also, the “old saying” was simple enough in its letter. But it was just as profound, also, and just as far-reaching—so the Saviour shows—in its spirit. For here, also, on the one hand, the commandment, in forbidding the action, forbids also the inward desire which gives it birth, as it were (Mat_5:28, cf. Jas_1:14-15). (James 1:14-15 *But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. (15) Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*) And here, also, on the other hand, it necessarily forbids also all those resulting evil indulgences and habits which so often become to men in consequence almost part of themselves. And it

bids the sinner (which is more) wholly to part with them, even where that is the case; and warns him solemnly, also, that the only other alternative is that of destroying himself (Mat_5:29-30, Eph_5:3-6). All this that “old saying” taught in the “germ.” ...

- “But, I say,” etc. There is no division of responsibility, all rests upon that **“Εγώ!”**
 - 1. All human impulses are to be held in perfect mastery.
 - 2. There is a judgment upon the heart as well as upon the outer life.
 - 3. When the bodily appetites and the spiritual nature come into collision, let the body suffer, not the soul. ...
 - 4. There are bodily temptations as well as mental temptations. ...
 - 5. Christ, in this paragraph, shows the bearing of His specific truths on the body and bodily relations:
 - (1) Personal mastery.
 - (2) Personal mastery may require the severest measures.
 - (3) Personal mastery required in the maintenance of the conjugal bond.—J. Parker, D.D.
- Mat_5:28. Mental uncleanness.—
 - 1. Begin at the root as our Saviour here advises, and restrain all mental impurities.
 - 2. Carefully avoid all occasions of this sin, e.g. bad books, impure plays, lewd company, etc.
 - 3. Keep the body under by labour and temperance.
 - 4. Avoid idleness, and be prudent as to recreations.
 - 5. When temptations are presented, do not argue or parley with them, do not lie still and muse upon them, but flee from them.
 - 6. Keep yourselves in the love of God and contemplate the things of eternity.
 - 7. Another remedy of lust prescribed by God Almighty is suitable marriage.—Jas. Blair, M.A.

Pulpit

- *Whosoever*; Revised Version, every one who (Mat_5:22, note). *Looketh ... to lust after* (πρὸς τὸ ἐπιθυμῆσαι). As πρὸς τό with the infinitive (e.g. Mat_6:1), primarily denotes purpose; this may be equivalent to "looketh in order that he may lust, looketh to stimulate his lust" (cf. Meyer, Trench); but, as Weiss points out, this surely belongs to the refinement, not to the beginning of sin.

Albert Barnes

- *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery* - See the notes at Mat_5:21. Our Saviour in these verses explains the seventh commandment. It is probable that the Pharisees had explained this commandment, as they had the sixth, as

extending only to the external act; and that they regarded evil thoughts and a wanton imagination as of little consequence, or as not forbidden by the law. Our Saviour assures them that the commandment did not regard the external act merely, but the secrets of the heart, and the movements of the eye. He declares that they who indulge a wanton desire, that they who look on a woman to increase their lust, have already, in the sight of God, violated the commandment, and committed adultery in the heart. Such was the guilt of David, whose deep and awful crime fully shows the danger of indulging in evil desires, and in the roving of a wanton eye. See 2 Sam. 11; Ps. 51. See also 2Pe_2:14. ...

Adam Clarke

- *Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her* - Επιθυμησαι αυτην, earnestly to covet her. The verb, επιθυμew, is undoubtedly used here by our Lord, in the sense of coveting through the influence of impure desire. our blessed Lord points out the spirituality of the law; which was a matter to which the Jews paid very little attention. Indeed it is the property of a Pharisee to abstain only from the outward crime. Men are very often less inquisitive to know how far the will of God extends, that they may please him in performing it, than they are to know how far they may satisfy their lusts without destroying their bodies and souls, utterly, by an open violation of his law.

Four-Fold Gospel - J. W. McGarvey

- *27 Ye have heard that it was said [Exo_20:14, Deu_5:18], Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 but I say unto you, that every one that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.* [Here, as in reference to murder, Jesus legislates against the thought which lies back of the act. He cuts off sin at its lowest root. The essence of all vice is intention. Those who indulge in unchaste imaginations, desires and intentions are guilty before God-- 2Pe_2:14.]

Matthew Henry

- Matthew 5:27-32 We have here an exposition of the seventh commandment, given us by the same hand that made the law, and therefore was fittest to be the interpreter of it: it is the law against uncleanness, which fitly follows upon the former; that laid a restraint upon sinful passions, this upon sinful appetites, both which ought always to be under the government of reason and conscience, and if indulged, are equally pernicious.
 - I. The command is here laid down (Mat_5:27), Thou shalt not commit adultery; which includes a prohibition of all other acts of uncleanness, and the desire of them: ...
 - II. It is here explained in the strictness of it, in three things, which would seem new and strange to those who had been always governed by the tradition of the elders, and took all for oracular that they taught.

- 1. We are here taught, that there is such a thing as **heart-adultery**, adulterous thoughts and dispositions, which never proceed to the act of adultery or fornication; ... This command forbids not only the acts of fornication and adultery, but,
 - (1.) All appetites to them, all lusting after the forbidden object; ...
 - (2.) All approaches toward them; feeding the eye with the sight of the forbidden fruit; not only looking for that end, that I may lust; but looking till I do lust, or looking to gratify the lust, ...
- 2. That such looks and such dalliances are so very dangerous and destructive to the soul, that it is better to lose the eye and the hand that thus offend than to give way to the sin, and perish eternally in it. ... Such pretences as these will scarcely be overcome by reason, and therefore must be argued against with the terrors of the Lord, and so they are here argued against.
 - (1.) It is a severe operation that is here prescribed for the preventing of these fleshly lusts.
 - (2.) It is a startling argument that is made use of to enforce this prescription (Mat_5:29), and it is repeated in the same words (Mat_5:30), because we are loth to hear such rough things;...
- 3. That men's divorcing of their wives upon dislike, or for any other cause except adultery, however tolerated and practised among the Jews, was a violation of the seventh commandment, as it opened a door to adultery, Mat_5:31, Mat_5:32. Here observe,
 - (1.) How the matter now stood with reference to divorce. ...
 - (2.) How this matter was rectified and amended by our Saviour.

Short Outline

Hook

Benefit

Content

1. Insert Jesus unconventional explanation to the seriousness of adultery
 - a. The Source of the good prevents begins with Jesus
 - b. In Matt 5:27-28 he says, quote
 - c. He references the way everyone has always thought about adultery
 - i. It is ok to think it, just don't do it.
 - ii. Flirt all you want, just no sexs.
 - d. Jesus tells us adultery begins in your heart when you look at a woman with intent.

- i. In your mind, She's Hot
 - ii. You just got to have her
 - iii. You start planning how you will get her.
- e. Jesus tells listeners 2 things extreme.
 - i. They were hyperboles, overstatements meant to get your attention
 - ii. So if your eye, or your hand, causes this sin (or any other sin), it would be better if you plucked it out, or cut it off, than to do what your heart is wanting to do.
- 2. Carefully avoid all occasions of this sin, e.g. bad books, impure plays, lewd company, etc.
 - a. ANY / ALL things using innuendo to communicate unfaithfulness
 - i. Books/magazines/porn
 - ii. Television that frequently mentions "extra-marital affairs", same-sex relationships,
 - iii. If you have friends that talk about sex frequently, you need new friends.
 - iv. Avoid adding adultery to your heart.
- 3. Avoid idleness.
 - a. Instead of working out the details of how you will "steal" that gorgeous married woman away from her mate, do something constructive.
 - b. Not in the Bible, but they saying is still true. "An empty mind in the devil's workshop"
 - c. Stay busy. Do repairs around the home, car. etc.
 - d.
- 4. be prudent as to recreations.
 - a. Do not go to places where men/women expose their bodies to other married individuals possibly for the purpose of "advertising" and creating sexual intrigue.
 - b. Go fishing, hiking, walking, motorcycle riding,
 - c. Get great at being at photographing flowers, or old barns, or animals.
- 5. When temptations are presented, do not argue or parley with them, do not lie still and muse upon them, but flee from them.
 - a. Temptation begins within us (James 1;14-15)
 - b. To discuss it (mentally) is to play with fire. You will get burned.
 - c. Do not take the time to rationalize it. Adultery is wrong to begin with. It can not be changed into something innocent and pure.
 - d. Instead, run from the temptation. Run toward God. Which leads to the next idea.
- 6. Consider how short term adultery is. IF you were to able to "steal" another man's wife, how secure would your new relationship be? Could someone "steal" her away from you?
 - a. Instead consider 2 things that will last much longer.
 - i. Heaven with all God's love

- ii. Hell, with its eternal pain and suffering, and spending all of it with all those other wife-stealing-adulterers that God has sentenced.
7. Maybe the best answer is a proper functioning marriage.
- a. 1 Corinthians 7:2-5 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. (3) The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. (4) The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. (5) Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
 - b. A proper functioning marriage supplies all the intimate needs of your mate and you.

8.

What to do

Cta

Key Words

Adultery

Idle

Recreation

Heart

Unfaithful

Heaven

Unconventional

Flee

Hell

Sexy

Run

Marriage

Additional Resources

We See Jesus

- This World Is Not My Home
 - <https://weseejesus.wordpress.com/2012/10/23/this-world-is-not-my-home/>

GBN

- Adultery
 - https://youtu.be/aHHTPMt0_DA
- Defeated Before He Can Begin
 - https://gbntv.org/daily_lift/daily-lift-february-6-2022/
- Same Dreaded Results
 - https://gbntv.org/daily_lift/daily-lift-january-29-2022/

WVBS

- Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Citizens and Adultery, Part 1
 - <https://video.wvbs.org/video/sermon-on-the-mount-7-kingdom-citizens-and-adultery-part-1/>
 -
- Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Citizens and Adultery, Part 2
 - <https://video.wvbs.org/video/sermon-on-the-mount-8-kingdom-citizens-and-adultery-part-2/>
- Christ Centered Marriage
 - <https://video.wvbs.org/video/christ-centered-marriage/>
- Woman's Role in Marriage: A Study in Marriage
 - <https://video.wvbs.org/video/3-womans-role-in-marriage-a-study-in-marriage/>
- Man's Role in Marriage: A Study in Leadership
 - <https://video.wvbs.org/video/2-mans-role-in-marriage-a-study-in-leadership/>

Search

- God's Plan for Marriage
 - <https://youtu.be/0XxRyHTmfmA>
 - Script (downloaded 4-16-22)
- When You Are Tempted
 - <https://youtu.be/lpgTXDmVS2A>
 - Script DLd 4-16-+22

La Vista Church of Christ

- Does it mean I'll never marry because I have strong feelings for a married man?
 - <https://www.lavistachurchofchrist.org/cms/does-it-mean-ill-never-marry-because-i-have-strong-feelings-for-a-married-man/>
- Can Adultery Be Forgiven
 - <http://lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVanswers/2003/2003-10-28.htm>

WordPoints

- God requires spouses to honor their marriage commitment to one another
 - <https://wordpoints.com/daily-family-bible-studies-326/>
- A Foretaste of Hell

- <https://wordpoints.com/daily-family-bible-studies-326/>

Christian Courier

- Marriage: As Designed by God
 - <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/843-marriage-as-designed-by-god>
- The Resurrection of the Wicked
 - <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1329-the-resurrection-of-the-wicked>

TTWT

Together for Life (booklet)