

Adultery | Family Worship Guide

Matthew 5:27-28



MAIN IDEA: God is concerned with our thoughts and motives, not just our actions.

PREPARATION:

You are hungry and choose to dine at your favorite restaurant. You parallel park across the street from the restaurant, but rather than crossing the street at a crosswalk, you decide to “jaywalk,” taking the direct route from your car to the restaurant. As you prepare to enter the restaurant, you hear a siren and are approached from behind. A policeman taps you on your shoulder and informs you that jaywalking is a crime, punishable by a fine and mark on your criminal record. You stare blankly in disbelief, crying out that you meant no harm and that the punishment is not fair. Alas, the policeman states that you clearly violated the letter of the law, hands you a ticket, and disappears. You shake your head – the letter of the law? There may be a law against “jaywalking,” but there were no other cars on the street and you have witnessed thousands of other individuals commit this “crime” over the course of your life. How can this be fair?

EXPLANATION:

Jesus continues to call out what is unrighteous about our brand of “righteousness.” Jesus is calling our bluff in these verses, and he is loving us enough to lovingly hate our hypocrisy. He calls to mind a handful of what would seem like “no-brainer” sins to avoid. Don’t stab anyone with a knife to the point of killing them...CHECK. Don’t have sex with someone you are not currently married to....CHECK. You get the picture here. This is the letter of the Law. Life works best when we don’t do these things. Jesus brought a deeper understanding and fullness to the simple commands. The spirit of this law, if you will, is that even looking, imagining, thinking with lustful intent is condemning (Job 31:1, Prov 6:25). It is ingrained in our wicked, human hearts to devise a way to check all of the boxes with the least effort for the best outcome we can tolerate. This attitude and outlook is exactly the reason Jesus had to come. Adultery wreaks havoc on personal, domestic, and spiritual joy. Think about David for a moment and his affair with Bathsheba. Their adultery led to a cover-up, followed by murder (2 Sam 11), Nathan later came and prophesied that violence would become commonplace in David’s household (2 Sam 12:10, and one disaster happened after another in David’s family after that including rape, murder, and revolt (2 Sam 13-15). Yet this scenario plays on repeat in our culture today. This has become a part of our cultural values, reinforced by television, practiced by millions, and criticized by almost no one. In a day where there is unquestioned acceptance of both premarital and extramarital sex, one must question how far are we from what Jesus was talking about in the spirit of this Law. According to Deuteronomy 22:22, “If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die.” The letter of the law cannot be more clear. By the standards that Jesus has set before us; however, David was damnable in verse 2 (2 Samuel 11:2) whereas the Pharisees (and many today) would not condemn him until verse 4. Jesus wants more for his beloved. Jesus came to fulfill the law that we might be the beneficiaries of that fulfillment. Our reward is a right, full relationship with Jesus himself. So now what? We are still to follow the letter of the law and not sleep with anyone but our spouse...obviously, but also as Christians we should set our gaze to the things above and not to earthly pleasures. It is not an over-spiritualization to say that Jesus may also be talking about our relationship to him in these verses. Occasionally the marriage covenant was used as an analogy to describe God’s relationship to his people. When the people of Israel and Judah refused to obey him, or when they practiced idolatry, the prophets accused them of spiritual adultery (Jer 3:6-10). Just like the jaywalking example, we are guilty of breaking the spirit and therefore the letter of the law. Jesus wants us to remember our utter

dependence on him. Without Christ there is no hope of us meeting the letter or the spirit of the Law, there is no lasting hope and joy in our marriages, no true communion in our relationships including our relationship with Christ. Without him we are still deserving of death, BUT through Christ we can live out fulfilled marriages, relationships, and continue on into glory resting in the fulfillment of the Law.

CONVERSATION:

1. Adultery means breaking the promises you make to one another and to God when you get married. What promises are most important to never break when we love someone?
2. When we break our promises to our spouse or future spouse, what does this mean about the condition of our heart? How can that be repaired?
3. What boundaries do you have in place to protect the covenants made between you (and your spouse/future spouse) and God?

APPLICATION:

- The following verses give great insight on how we should deal with this type of sin. Does something need to be cut off from your heart? in your life?
- Be diligent in self-inspection.
- Be accountable to Christ through his Church. Community is key. Are there people in your life that are your spiritual bumpers (no gutter balls allowed). Are those people close enough to know about your marriage and relationship to Christ?

SUPPLICATION:

Extol the name of Jesus for who he is and what he has done for you.

Ask God to help you see your blind spots in your relationship with him and with your spouse.

Ask God to help you set up healthy boundaries in your spiritual and marital relationship.

Ask God to deliver you from temptation.

EXULTATION:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=px-eU1QjQiU>

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity
And in sin and my mother conceive me
Behold, You delight in the truth and the inward
me
And You teach me wisdom in the secret heart
And my sins, not far, but right in front of me
Against You and You alone, God, I am guilty
Wash me thoroughly, cleanse me from iniquity
And teach me wisdom in the secret heart
Oh, create in me a clean heart, oh God
Renew a right spirit within me, oh God
Cast me not away from Your presence
Take not Your Holy Spirit
Restore in me the joy of Your salvation

And teach me wisdom in the secret heart
Send me the chief of sinners to proclaim
Come be forgiven the sin, the lamb of God was
slain
Open my lips and my mouth will declare Your
endless praise
And teach me wisdom in the secret heart
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
Renew a right spirit within me, oh God
Cast me not away from Your presence
Take not Your Holy Spirit
Restore in me the joy of Your salvation
And teach me wisdom in the secret heart
Wisdom in the secret heart.

Seriousness of Sin | Family Worship Guide

Matthew 5:29-30



MAIN IDEA: Following Jesus requires a fierce fight in the face of sin.

PREPARATION:

This is a great illustration to show the power of Jesus over sin. You can do this activity easily with items in your home or watch the video with your family. https://youtu.be/8Z_SMrnEial

HOW TO DO THIS ILLUSTRATION:

1. Fill the "Jesus" jar with half water, half bleach.
2. Fill the "Sin" jar with water and dark food coloring.
3. Fill the "You" jar with water.
4. Pouring the "sin" water dilutes the food coloring, and vice versa.

EXPLANATION:

Did Jesus really just tell us that we should tear out our eyes and cut off our hands? That seems like a radical response to sin. It is a radical response that Jesus is using to continue to bring to light the seriousness and depth of our sin. Not only physical actions of sin but sinful thoughts. He did this in the previous passage about angry thoughts and he continues with this passage about lustful thoughts. Jesus is revealing that sin is not only what people see but what they don't see, in our hearts and minds. Sin is deep in our hearts and minds. We must be aware and take action to fight sin.

The goal of Jesus is not for his followers to walk around without eyes or hands but that they realize the seriousness of sin, not only in our actions but in our thoughts. This figure of speech is called hyperbole, which is an exaggerated statement that should not be taken literally. Even if we were to gouge out our eyes or cut off our hands, the problem of our sin would not be fixed. Jesus is using this figure of speech to magnify the power of Sin in the believer's life and the aggressive action we should take in dealing with our sin. And he is using it to magnify the responsibility we have to wage war against sin. As Jesus points out at the end of each verse, sin is the reason that people go to hell. Sin is serious. God takes sin seriously, even to the point that he sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross so that the penalty we owe is paid in full. The penalty of sin which is death has been paid, through the Spirit, sin's power over us is being broken, but the presence of sin in us and around us is still very real. There is a battle of our fleshly desires and spiritual desires. Think of it like two animals living inside of you, one is the flesh and the other is the spirit. Every day you feed these animals through your actions, words, and thoughts. Whichever one you feed the most will grow stronger and bigger. You make the choice on which one you will feed. This is the daily battle of flesh and spirit.

This will not end until we are reunited with Jesus in Heaven either at death or his return. Life on this earth will be a continuous battle to live Holy as God as called us to be Holy. Sin will be at the door knocking, waiting for you to open and work to defeat you. We must be on alert! We must fight! We must take action! When we fail, we must repent!

CONVERSATION:

1. What is sin? What are some examples of sin that others cannot see?
2. How does sin separate us from God?
3. If Jesus died for our sins and paid the penalty, why is there still sin?
4. Consider Johnny, who has a group of friends that influences him to sinful behavior when he spends time with them. How might this passage apply to Johnny's situation?
5. Can you think of another situation that would require costly action to address sin?

APPLICATION:

- Pray for God to reveal any deep sin that you may not see. When God reveals it through the Holy Spirit, repent and seek accountability.
- Identify actual ways you can walk and feed the Holy Spirit daily so that you can wage war against the temptation of sin.

SUPPLICATION:

God, thank you for your son Jesus Christ and sending him to pay the penalty for our sin. Thank you for saving us from our sin. Thank you for the Holy Spirit to reveal our sin to us and lead us in the way of truth. Reveal any sin in our life to us so that we may repent and follow you in holiness.

EXULTATION:

Blessed Assurance: https://youtu.be/7SSJicZO6_g

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior, am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love, oh oh

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long, oh oh oh oh

Oh, what a Savior, wonderful Jesus