

09-21-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:27-30

Title: The Heart

The Heart

Remember

Jesus came to fulfill the law

The law will not pass away – not the smallest part of it

Jesus is putting the Law back where it belongs
To its rightful place...

So their righteousness exceeds that of the
Pharisees and Scribes

The standard had been lowered

He's raising it back where it belonged

Where does it say this in the OT?

Have you ever read in OT where anger is the
same as murder?

May have a question how is this putting it back

Was it ever there in the first place

Look quickly w/ me in **Deuteronomy 6:5**

And in **Deuteronomy 10:12**

*The story is told of a young actor who was trying to
impress an important movie director. The actor wanted*

to send an expensive gift, but he just didn't have the money. But he had an idea. If he could find a valuable vase which was already broken and get it at a very small cost, then he could mail it to the director. He would think it had gotten broken in the mail and would be most impressed anyway.

So this actor went to an exclusive store and found a vase that had been broken into many pieces. It was just going to be thrown out, so he was able to get it at a very small cost. He told them to wrap it up and send it and gave them the address. He waited to hear from the director, but heard nothing for several days. Finally he sent a telegram: "Did vase arrive?" Shortly he received this response: "Vase arrived. But why was each piece wrapped separately?"

I'm afraid that's the way life is for a lot of people. They have their lives divided up into pieces -- there's a piece wrapped up for family, a piece wrapped up for recreation, a piece wrapped up for work, another for friends. And then, somewhere, there's a tiny little piece wrapped up for God. We'll give God a couple of hours a week and "go to church." We'll wrap up a tenth of our income and give it to God in the collection plate. God's part of our lives is very carefully kept wrapped up and separate from all the other parts of our lives.

God responds by saying, "I don't want a piece of your life. I want it all. All that you are, all that you have, I want it to be given to me, to be used for my glory."

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all

your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

What does the Lord require?

Fear Him, walk in His ways and love Him

Love Him w/ all your **heart**

Even in OT – every part of us

Starting in our heart

Is to love Him

Later in **Matthew 22:37-40**

Deuteronomy 10:16

16 "So circumcise your heart,

Deuteronomy 26:16

*16 "This day the Lord your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them **with all your heart** and with all your soul.*

The emphasis is on the heart

From the beginning God planned for these to affect our heart – not just external observance

The 10 Commandments are really a response to a love relationship with God – the deliverer, the One who brought the Israelites out of Egypt, the One who saved us from sin

The Israelites had already been delivered from the Egyptians when God gave them the 10

Commandments – this was how they were to show their love for what God had already done for them

It was not the way to get to God

Think about that difference...

We love Him b/c He first loved us

If you love Me, keep my commandments...

We don't follow the law to be made right

We follow the Law b/c God has already made us righteous – out of love for His grace and mercy toward us

We don't worship, obey God b/c of legal obligation, or even b/c it is the right thing to do

We worship and obey Him b/c we love Him

B/c of what He has done for us by forgiving us, by declaring us righteous through Jesus' blood

The whole law is to love God and love your neighbor. And that expresses itself toward God in being loyal, faithful, reverent and set apart.

It expresses itself toward your neighbor in respecting authority established by God, respecting life made in His image, being pure, unselfish, truthful and contented.

The Law is to be an act of the heart

Coming from a heart filled w/ love and gratitude

For all that God has done

For the deliverance that God has brought

You have heard...

Matthew 5:27

This is a true, biblical statement

The bible is very clear on this

Adultery is wrong, adultery is sin

The word for adultery here

The **root** word is – a physical, sexual relationship with someone else's spouse

The word itself is used for any kind of illicit sexual relationship

So the application here is any kind of sexual relationship in or outside of marriage

The application is really broad and generalized

Any kind of sexual relationship outside of marriage

Lusting after anyone married or unmarried

In John 8 we have the woman caught in adultery

Interesting there's no mention of the man...

If Jesus didn't have the power to forgive her – she should be stoned – the OT penalty for adultery

But He does something so amazing –

He looks at her and says – go and sin no more

At that point she was washed white as snow – there was nothing left to be condemned

We must understand how bad God views this – it was punishable by death in the OT

Any sexual act – outside of monogamous marriage is a heinous crime – punishable by death – we tend to forget that today

Again we have that pattern

You have heard...

But I say (verse 28)...

But I say...

This is what tradition has said, the leaders say...

But Jesus is going to say...

Matthew 5:28

Jesus again raises the standard

Murder is wrong, so is anger and hatred

The attitude of the heart

Adultery is wrong – so is lust

The attitude of the heart

A heart problem

...everyone who looks at a woman with lust...

This is not that accidental, brief look

More – in the process of continuing to look
This is purposeful and repeated looking

The person who looks has already committed the act
The sin has already happened in the heart
The look is actually the result

The idea behind the word lust is to have purpose
There is purpose behind the look

We've all seen the look...

Portrayed in movies – guy watching girls

Remember a song my mom actually sang

...standing on the corner watching all the girls go by

We joke about it, sing about it, laugh at it...

However...

He is saying whoever continues looking on a woman
for the purpose of lusting gives evidence that the sin
has already been committed in his heart

Lust has been filled – the look is the last part

Again Jesus is saying – the heart is the problem

The look is simply the result of a sinful attitude
in the heart

This is a heart problem

Matthew 15:19

One man wrote – *He who experiences at a first glance this desire, and then instead of turning away and withdrawing from sin continues to look in order to retain and increase the desire commits the sin*

Even Job, of the OT – very godly man – guarded against this by saying... **Job 31:1**

*"I have made a covenant with my eyes;
How then could I gaze at a virgin?"*

The underlying principle of the 6th commandment – thou shalt not murder – is the sacredness of life

The underlying principle of the 7th commandment – thou shalt not commit adultery – is the sacredness of the basic unit of life – marriage

We aren't righteous before God if we've ever been angry

We're not righteous before God if we've ever thought about adultery, if we have lusted..

All guilty

These two illustrations are very powerful

They really go to the very core

How many of us have never been angry?

How many of us have never lusted?

We've all experienced these temptations

The Jews sitting on the hillside in Galilee would have to admit with these first 2 illustrations – they were sinners

As do all of us today

No matter what they have or haven't done they are not fit for Jesus' kingdom – we all are guilty before God

We're not fit for His kingdom

Jesus' standard is high

Way higher than Scribes and Pharisees

1 Corinthians 6:13

There are those today who would have us believe it's just biology like eating, sleeping and drinking...

The body is not just biological

It is also spiritual and it belongs to God

Once again we see we can't be OK on our own

Who of us can say we never lusted for someone else?

If the standard is merely the physical we're OK

Jesus goes further and says it's our heart

It is our thoughts that count

Thinking is the same as doing

We are all guilty, hopeless and helpless w/o Jesus

We can't do this on our own

Amputation

In the next verses we have the solution

Matthew 5:29-30

It's better to lose an arm or an eye if they lead to sin
Sounds a bit drastic...

Again, remember, this is an issue of the heart

Would a physical act affect that?

Not so much...

Do blind people lust?

We know they do

Jesus has already said – it's not a matter of the
physical act of murder – it is a matter of the heart

It is the anger or hatred we have in our hearts

He is saying the same thing here

It is not a matter of doing the act

We need to amputate the heart to affect this...

Now why does it say your right eye, your right hand?

For Jews this symbolized the best

I know for you left handed people –
doesn't seem quite right... 😊

Here we go – right handed prejudice
again... 😊

Everyone knows – the right hand is
right 😊

He's saying – there's nothing so precious in your life that it isn't worth getting rid of (even the best) to avoid this struggle

If there is s. getting in the way of your avoiding sin – doesn't matter how good it is – get rid of it

Nothing is precious if it affects your eternal destiny

Sin should be dealt w/ radically

Paul said – he beats his body and brings it into submission

Whatever feeds an adulterous heart – get rid of it

We're not talking the physical heart

This is a heart issue

If there is s. tugging at your heart

Pulling you away from God

Get rid of it – pluck it out, cut it off

Even if it is s. really precious

*...if your right eye makes you **stumble** ...*

*...if your right hand makes you **stumble** ...*

The idea here is of a bait stick

The bait was put on a stick in the trap

When the stick was picked up – the trap would be sprung

Whatever causes these evil desires – get rid of it

Whatever is the bait

Whatever is the source...

Perhaps it is a place...

Perhaps a person...

Perhaps an activity...

Don't let anything keep you from the Lord Jesus

Spoke w/ someone this week about having other gods in our lives – there should only be One God – One that we serve – are we willing to take the steps necessary to get rid of these things that pull our hearts away from God – it may be radical – it is necessary...

Conclusion:

Our heart is the heart of the matter

It is what happens in our heart that God is concerned w/ -- not our outward observance

He has always been concerned about that

He continues to be concerned today

We can't keep the Law – none of us can

It can't be done

We can't maintain God's standard

Jesus did what the blood of bulls and goats could never do – He removed sin by His death on the cross

Jesus' sacrifice is applied to us today

When we repent and trust Him as Savior

Seeing our helplessness to keep the Law – we must run to Him for mercy who alone can give righteousness

John Newton – former captain of slave ships and writer of Amazing Grace

Nearing the end of his life and having difficulty even with simple conversations said this...

...it seems as though there are only two things I can remember, one is that I am a great sinner, and the second is, that Jesus Christ is a greater Savior.

The new heart, the new life, that Jesus gives is our only hope

Benediction:

Galatians 2:20

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Sermon notes
Matthew 5:27-30

The H_____

You have h_____...

But I s_____...

A heart p_____

All g_____

A_____