**June 2, 2019 “What is Adultery” Matthew 5:26-30**

Perhaps you find it interesting as I do, that when Jesus delivered His Sermon on the Mount, that He addressed two of most the powerful emotions known to mankind. The first was anger, which many times is the main motive for the crime of murder (Matthew 5:21-25) and the second issue He addresses is the issue of lust.

When Jesus first mentioned murder He was addressing the sanctity of life and now in the second illustration He uses He addresses the sanctity of marriage. The word “sanctity” refers to the holy character of both subjects, life and marriage. When a person commits a murder, they have in effect placed themselves in a place of authority over the life of the other person which is not a position that is granted to man but to God alone. In the second illustration, man again inserts himself into the position of authority which has not been granted unto him. Note the statement, “What God has joined together, let not man put asunder”. In the act of adultery, man inserts himself into a place of authority which belongs to God alone, “Until death do us part”.

So, the question remains as to why Jesus addresses these two issues first in the delivery of His sermon. What is He trying to reveal to the people sitting on the mountain with Him and what is He trying to get us to see as we study His Word again today? Could it be that the Scribes and Pharisees both had reduced the teaching of God as revealed in the Old Testament, to a set of external rules and regulations? If that is so and it appears that is what they did, how about you and me today? Have we done that same thing and reduced the character of the Christian into a set of do’s and do not’s?

Christians, don’t swear. Christians don’t drink alcohol. Christians don’t run around on their husband or wife. Christians don’t do drugs. Christians don’t, don’t, don’t, don’t… and on and on it goes.

Is that Christianity? I think that is what Jesus is trying to get the people of His day to evaluate if their relationship with God is external or internal?

1. Note Matthew 5:27
   1. You have heard it said
      1. Was that a wrong statement?
         1. NO… it was very correct
         2. Pharisees would heartily agree
         3. But was the statement meant to be more than an external set of rules
            1. So, if I do not commit adultery… then I am OK with God?
            2. Is that what the 7th commandment is all about?

Not doing something would put you into a right standing with God?

1. But I say unto you
   1. Basis for what Jesus is saying
      1. Matthew 5:20… unless your righteousness exceeds
      2. So, the question is…
         1. Is righteousness internal or external?
2. Where does Jesus say righteousness occurs?
   1. If you have looked at a woman with lust
      1. You have committed adultery where?
      2. In your heart
         1. So is the relationship God desires with us
         2. Internal or external?
            1. If it is external only what is the condition of the heart with Him?
            2. If it is internal will the external reflect that relationship?
3. What is the most often quoted book of the Old Testament by the Jesus and the writers of the New Testament?
   1. Deuteronomy is the answer
      1. Short synopsis of the book
      2. Chapters 1-3… Moses gives a short history lesson
      3. Chapter 4:5-7… revealing of relationship
      4. Chapter 4:9… keep your soul diligently
      5. Chapter 4:23… watch yourselves
      6. Chapter 4:29… seek Him with your whole heart
      7. Chapter 5… law given
         1. Chapter 5:29…
         2. Chapters 6-26… again and again
         3. Chapter 6:4-5
         4. Chapter 7:6-8; 9; 13
         5. Chapter 8:2-3; 5; 14; 17
         6. Chapter 9:4
         7. Chapter 10:12-13
         8. Chapter 13:3-4
4. Law was given to help the people do two things
   1. Love God
      1. Commandments 1-4
   2. Love their fellow man
      1. Commandments 5-10

Question? Did the Lord God deliver Israel out of bondage before the Law was given or after?

1. Why is this important for us to know?
   1. Love established the covenant with Israel
   2. Not the Law
      1. Our relationship with God should be based on love rather than law
      2. Why else would Jesus say what He did in Matthew 5:28-30
         1. Let nothing interfere with your relationship with God
         2. Whatever it is… know your heartfelt relationship to Him is worth more than any other thing in life

Why do we have this relationship? “Because He first loved us”…

The baptismal service we had earlier was a reminder to all of us that external things like water, rules and regulations cannot save us but a heart that is in love with their Creator is a new creature in Christ.

Colossians 3:1-10

If you do not have that relationship with Christ… what is holding you back? Let go of that and embrace the Lord our God with your whole heart, your whole mind, your whole body and soul.