

UPPER ROOM SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Living the Life of the Beloved/Belonging: Matthew 5-7

Pastor Jim Otte

Spring-Summer, 2018

Lesson 8 – (May 13, 2018) Matthew 5:27-32

From Last Session:

- a. God's love for us is the reason and the power for us to:
 - a. Love God, and
 - b. Love our neighbor
 - c. ***John 13:34***. *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*
- b. ***Romans 14:19***. *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*
 - a. **“Make every effort”** has no time limit.
 - b. **“to do”** – in your thoughts, words, and deeds
 - c. **“Peace”** is not the same as placating people.
 - d. **“Mutual”** edification balances the benefit to self with others.
 - i. How will this action build up my neighbor?
 - ii. How will these words strengthen the other person?

Matthew 5:27-30

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’^[a] ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

- a. **“you shall not commit adultery.”** – marital vows were taken so seriously, that ***Deuteronomy 22:22*** allowed for the guilty to be stoned to death.
 - a. ²² *If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.*
 - i. **“purge the evil from Israel.”** – God's emphasis that His people were “set apart” from the heathen; distinct & holy, as God Himself was distinct & holy.
- b. **“anyone who looks lustfully has already committed...in his heart.”** – Jesus expands the reach of the commandment beyond the action – into the heart!
 - a. ***Matthew 15:19***. *For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*

- b. **“who looks”** – with deliberate intent to awaken a desire for someone, who is used as an object of self-gratification, i.e. pornography, voyeurism, strip clubs, etc.
- c. **“lustfully”** – lust consumes you; it does not honor the “No” boundary; its obsessive nature demands satisfaction!
 - i. Satisfaction, out of obsession/addiction, cannot be filled by more...
 - ii. It takes the power of God’s love, the help of others, and the ‘guarding of one’s eyes,’ to overcome a ‘lust’ addiction!
 - iii. **The Beloved Life Principle #20:** You can “lust” after anything or anyone – not limited to sexual focus. The self-centered justification for lust is: “What could it hurt, when nobody _____?”
- c. **“If your right eye...right hand”** – The Jewish rabbis often said, “*The eye and the hand are two brokers of sin.*”
- d. **“causes you to stumble”** – (“skandalon”) – comes from the word describing a bait stick used to lure an animal into a trap, and ultimately to its own destruction.
- e. **“gouge it out...cut it off”** – hyperbole meaning to root out anything which may contribute to your spiritual or relational death/destruction
 - a. **The Beloved Life Principle #21:** Living the intentionally lustful life can potentially destroy _____ spiritually, because you eventually live to feed your own god.
 - b. **Martin Luther:** “A god is that, to which you look, for the highest good in your life.” What is your ‘highest good?’

