

September 4, 2016

Series: Building a Kingdom Culture

Message: Matters of the Heart, Part 1 – Pastor Frank King

Text: Matthew 5:21-48 NIV

Introduction

In this passage, Jesus highlight 6 areas in which he presents a Kingdom approach toward how we deal in our personal relationships and how we must war against sin in our hearts.

This part of the Sermon on the Mount covers SIX (6) AREAS:

1. Murder (Anger) – v.21-26
2. Adultery (Immorality) – v. 27-30
3. Honoring the Commitment to Marriage – v. 31-32
4. Making False Commitments (Keep Your Word) – v. 33-37
5. Retaliation (Defensiveness) – v. 38-42
6. Love Your Enemies (Response to Mistreatment) – 43-48

Each area begins with this phrase: ***“You have heard that it was said...”*** Jesus was presenting:

- (a) What the Pharisees and the Mosaic law was saying in terms of how we should handle these matters (**parallels with the 10 Commandments**)
- (b) what’s God’s true intent of the Law was. The KINGDOM message elevates! **All things are possible and we are able to do all things when we submit to God’s rule and rely on the Power of His Spirit to help us.**

I. Anger/Murder – (Matt. 5:21-26)

*²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that **anyone who is angry with a brother or sister** will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

*²⁵ “**Settle matters quickly** with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.*

a. Scriptural Context

- **Law:** Pharisees taught that according to the law, unjustified Murder was wrong; the taking of someone’s life.
- **Heart Matter:** Murder begins in the heart and not with the act of physically taking someone’s life.

- **Kingdom:** The Spirit of Murder functions on many levels and grows; it starts with anger. Anger is an emotion, that if not checked, can lead to dire consequences.

b. How do you deal with Anger? Truth is that we all get Angry!

The Process: *(Have you ever wanted to Kill Somebody because you were so Angry at them?)*

- Anger** – is a strong emotional reaction to displeasure, often leading to plans for revenge or punishment.
- Bitterness** – Heb. 12:15 – “root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble
- Hatefulness** – 1 John 3:15 – “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer.”
- Murder** – assassinate people’s character or take someone’s life.

c. How We Overcome:

1. Recognize its source, v. 21

- Admit that you are angry
- Anger’s source is often because of a perception that someone is blocking your goals (for honor, comfort, resources, resolution, etc.)
- Anger is a war which comes from within you ... your desires for pleasure. – James 4:1-2)
- Anger operates to the degree in which we open the door to it.
- Anger can be couched in unperceived pride in our own lives. (Entitled, who do they think they are, after all I’ve done for them, rights being taken away, etc.)

2. Repent in light of eternity, v. 22-24

- **Repent for your words** – we speak words of contempt when angry and place ourselves as the ultimate judge over people’s lives. We can de-value people or situations that God has not!
- You don’t have the legal right to permanently cast someone down or dismiss them because of your own emotional displeasure.

3. Respond Quickly, v. 25

- **Act in the opposite spirit of anger** – with urgency! Why because healing begins and evicts the poison that starts to fester in our hearts.
- **Leave your Gift** – “don’t try to love on Jesus ... if you have fallen out with your brother or sister.”
- **Gen. 4:6-7** – Cain suffered from disappointment and self-pity; God says, come correct or you will self-destruct!
- **Settle matters Quickly** – repent, listen and stop drawing your own finalized conclusions. Function in the spirit of love and compromise.

II. Adultery/Immorality – (Matt. 5:27-30)

*²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’^[e] ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who **looks at a woman lustfully** (implies a continuous look, not a passing glance) 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. Scriptural Context

Law: The Pharisees (according to the law of Moses) focused on adultery. So the prevailing view of the day was, as long as I'm not committing adultery (murder), then everything else is okay.

Heart Matter: Here, Jesus calls on us, a His disciples, to stand firm against the **spirit of Immorality.**

Kingdom: The Kingdom calls us to a higher level of living, by God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is saying here, that what happens in the heart (or with the eyes) is just as important as the "outward act."

What is sexual immorality? Any sexual activity (physical, verbal, technological, etc.) outside the covenant of marriage.

b. 2 Principles

1. A "lustful look!" - The way it works is "**the looking at**" fuels the heart with fantasies. **Adultery progresses from the eye, to the heart, and then the act!**

Lust which is a strong desire, Grows! It is **unbiased and operates to the degree that anyone opens the door to it.**

- a. We are all born with **weakness and Satan wants to escalate or weakness to wickedness** – but he needs our cooperation.

It grows and then becomes uncontrollable. You cannot dabble with a little immorality and think you will be able to control it later.

- b. Interestingly, Jesus is not foaming at the mouth, railing against sin. He is the good shepherd, giving insight to help us identify, detect and overcome immorality.

The goal of the Kingdom in this area is moving away from things that are destructive and deceptive about immorality. Instead, he was to draw us into a life of purity and greater encounters with the Lord.

Overcoming #1: Guard the eye gate. ***Job 31:1 "make a covenant with my eyes"***

2. **We must do what's necessary, even painful, to rid ourselves of whatever stirs up lust. Jesus is not advocating mutilation!** He's speaking to the urgency and doing what's necessary to live free from sexual immorality.
 - a. He is not saying, take a casual approach to dealing with lust. So, it means that some of what we cherish (people, places or things – television shows, reading material, music, etc.) need to be removed from our lives. **SO MUCH TODAY INUDATES US and OUR KIDS toward sexual impurity and immorality.**
 - b. **Why? Because it can cost us in the long run.** The heart, slowly, grows cold, the mind becomes darkened, the conscience becomes defile and there is an increase in demonic activity because the door is opened.

Shame, Oppression and perversion sets in ... leading to our hearts being pulled away from our faith and trust in God and his provision – leading to a denying of the faith and ultimately losing our soul through rejection of God!

Let's not dismiss what Jesus says about hell. It's not meant for us but the enemy is patient and slowly draws us away – if we allow it.

1 Cor. 6:18 – Flee sexual immorality.

Overcoming #2: Resist it, by His Grace! Don't give in because you think you can't win!

We must act in the opposite spirit of immorality by diligently seeking to grow in our relationship with the Lord.

3. The Right Look - Walking Free from the Spirit of Immorality

1. **Looking inward** – by communing with the Spirit through the Word.
2. **Looking upward** – to heaven and its rewards.
3. **Looking backward** – to deal with bitterness, shame and wrong mindsets; hurts, abuses, violations against the soul and generationally.
4. **Looking forward** – to God's assignment in our life and his purpose for your life. It has great value and we do not want to squander or take lightly God's will for us.
5. **Looking around** – to the pain that our immorality would cause others
6. **Looking to others** – in relationships with accountability (confessing our weaknesses)
7. **Looking outward** – by establishing boundaries to avoid circumstances that stir lust in us by what we look at, where we go and what we do.

Meditate on the Word and received the Word implanted in our hearts which is able to save our souls.

James 1:21 "receive the engrafted (implanted word), which is able to save our souls.