

The Sermon On The Mount
A New Perspective On Adultery
Matthew 5:27-30

Today's lesson is not on adultery per se. Today's lesson is on the pain that our actions can inflict on those who love us. The Scripture teaches that adultery is a heart issue. This is true on multiple levels. The desire for adultery originates in the heart. The act of adultery inevitably wounds the heart of another. In every instance of adultery someone is wounded and hurt. Often the one most hurt is the one who loves most.

“Dad could talk about peace and love out loud to the world, but he could never show it to the people who supposedly meant the most to him: his wife and son. How can you talk about peace and love and have a family in bits and pieces - no communication, adultery, divorce? You can't do it, not if you're being true and honest with yourself.”

Julian Lennon

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket--- safe, dark, motionless, airless --- it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell.”

C.S. Lewis

Matthew 5:3 **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:8 **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

Matthew 5:17 **“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**

Matthew 5:20 **For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:27 **“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’**

Exodus 20:14 **“You shall not commit adultery.**

Leviticus 20:10 “If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, **both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.**

Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who **looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

“I’ve looked on many women with lust. I’ve committed adultery in my heart many times. God knows I will do this and forgives me.”

Jimmy Carter

Matthew 15:19 For **out of the heart come evil thoughts**, murder, **adultery**, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Matthew 5:29 If your right eye **causes you to sin**, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.

Matthew 5:30 And if your right hand **causes you to sin**, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

In the Old Testament “adultery” was the preeminent metaphor for Israel’s unfaithfulness to God. God viewed His covenantal relationship with His people as a covenant of marriage.

Jeremiah 3:20 Surely, as a **treacherous wife leaves her husband**, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the LORD.”

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Jeremiah 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.**

Exodus 34:14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, **whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God**)

Numbers 25:11 “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that **he was jealous with my jealousy among them**, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy.

Numbers 25:1 While Israel lived in Shittim, **the people began to whore** with the daughters of Moab.

Numbers 25:2 These invited the people to the **sacrifices of their gods**, and the people ate and **bowed down to their gods**.

Numbers 25:3 So Israel yoked himself to **Baal of Peor**. And the **anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel**.

Numbers 25:5 And Moses said to the judges of Israel, “**Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor.**”

Numbers 25:6 And behold, **one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family**, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting.

Numbers 25:7 When **Phinehas** the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and **took a spear in his hand**

Numbers 25:8 and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. **Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped**.

Numbers 25:9 Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

A Love Story...

Ezekiel 16:4 And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.

Ezekiel 16:5 **No eye pitied you**, to do any of these things to you out of **compassion** for you, **but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred**, on the day that you were born.

Ezekiel 16:6 “And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, **‘Live!’** I said to you in your blood, **‘Live!’**”

Ezekiel 16:7 **I made you flourish** like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

Ezekiel 16:8 “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; **I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.**”

Ezekiel 16:9 Then **I bathed you** with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil.

Ezekiel 16:10 **I clothed you** also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. **I wrapped you** in fine linen and covered you with silk.

Ezekiel 16:11 And **I adorned you** with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck.

Ezekiel 16:12 And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

Ezekiel 16:13 Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. **You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty.**

Ezekiel 16:14 And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for **it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD.**

Ezekiel 16:15 “**But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore** because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his.

Ezekiel 16:16 You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines, and on them **played the whore.** The like has never been, nor ever shall be.

Ezekiel 16:17 You also took your beautiful jewels of my gold and of my silver, **which I had given you**, and made for yourself images of men, and with them **played the whore**.

Ezekiel 16:20 And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. **Were your whorings so small a matter**

Ezekiel 16:21 that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them?

Ezekiel 16:22 And in all your abominations and your whorings **you did not remember the days of your youth**, when you were **naked and bare, wallowing in your blood**.

Ezekiel 16:26 You also **played the whore** with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, **multiplying your whoring, to provoke me to anger**.

Ezekiel 16:28 **You played the whore** also with the Assyrians, because you were not satisfied; yes, **you played the whore** with them, and still you were not satisfied.

Ezekiel 16:29 **You multiplied your whoring** also with the trading land of Chaldea, and even with this you were not satisfied.

Ezekiel 16:30 **“How sick is your heart**, declares the Lord GOD, because you did all these things, the deeds of a brazen prostitute,

Ezekiel 16:31 building your vaulted chamber at the head of every street, and making your lofty place in every square. Yet you were not like a prostitute, because you scorned payment.

Ezekiel 16:32 **Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband!**

Ezekiel 16:58 You bear the penalty of your lewdness and your abominations, declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 16:59 “For thus says the Lord GOD: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant,

Ezekiel 16:60 yet **I will remember my covenant with you** in the days of your youth, and **I will establish for you an everlasting covenant.**

Ezekiel 16:61 Then you will **remember your ways** and **be ashamed** when you take your sisters, both your elder and your younger, and I give them to you as daughters, but not on account of the covenant with you.

Ezekiel 16:62 **I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD,**

Ezekiel 16:63 that you may **remember** and **be confounded**, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, **when I atone for you for all that you have done, declares the Lord GOD.”**

Isaiah 53:5 But he was **pierced for our transgressions**; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Matthew 5:4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.