

Heart Beats: Lust 2-21-21

Disclaimer for Parents: This sermon contains references to sex

Humor – more kids advice on love

Read the Bible Through the Lens of WHO Jesus Is; His Life, Character & Ministry

- Ask ourselves what is Jesus *thinking, feeling and choosing* during this encounter?

Luke 7:36-50 – Jesus forgives and heals a woman of sexual sin

Lessons:

- Jesus sees the little girl or boy inside every broken soul trapped sexual brokenness and sin.
- Jesus shows healing and freedom is found by seeking & receiving God's forgiveness and love.
- Jesus teaches God's best, blessed and truly happy life will only be experienced by those who INCREASE their love and desire for God more than anything else.
- Jesus teaches us to admit our need as "spiritual poverty" (5:3) and we will receive the abundant best, blessed, & truly happy life of the kingdom of heaven (on earth).

C.S. Lewis Quote "Weight of Glory" - We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink, and sex, and ambition, when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

Review: Purpose of Jesus' Sermon on Mount ("Heart Beats" series) – Know how to live God's best, blessed, truly happy life he intends; Prevention and CURE for "heart disease". Hebrew "HEART" is thinking, feeling & choosing – Goal: INTEGRATE head, heart, body

MESSAGE: *More Desire, Not Less, Is Jesus' Prescription For Sexual Heart Disease*

TEXT: (ESV) Matthew 5:27-30 – Undisciplined sexual desire can result in adultery and divorce, and produce devastating consequences in marriages and families. (Ex. 20:14)

Sex: God is for it! Created it for *procreation, pleasure and bonding* in covenant marriage.

Sexual Desire – God created, physiological human desire; amoral, powerful but also dangerous!

Jesus Preaches on Sin BUT Emphasizes Protection & Healing vs. Law & Punishment –

- *Jesus teaches we should think of sin as soul sickness or heart disease.*
- Sin of Adultery impacts both bodies and entire families in ways other sins do not

Jesus Teaches MARRIAGE Is God's Blessed PROVISION and Best PROTECTION For Sexual Desire Specific Laws Against Adultery Will Protect but never Prevent It – just more debate & shame.

- **Vs. 27** – Jesus quotes Exodus 20:14 "*You must not commit adultery*" – 21st cent. "cheating"
 - **Adultery** - sexual relations with a married woman and man not her husband. Mosaic Law prescribed death by stoning for both.
 - Jesus primarily addressing MEN
- **Vs. 28** – "**Lustful Intent**" (ESV) – choosing to look at women and fantasizing sex.

- Like anger, lust leads us to believe it will be satisfied.
- **Vs. 28b** – “**already committed adultery in his heart**” – acts of adultery in the mind do have consequences. Our attitudes toward women (image of God) & inability to resist temptation
- **Vs. 29-30** – “**Surgical Amputation**” – Jesus uses “**hyperbole**” exaggerated language to make the point; cut off ACCESS to anything tempting you to fantasize sex with another person.
 - **Jesus speaks of “Gehenna” trash dump (hell)** as the analogy of life consumed with burning, unquenchable sexual desire.
 - **Helpful: Cut off ACCESS** - Internet filters like “Covenant Eyes”
 - **Helpful: ACCOUNTABILITY** – Celebrate Recovery / Men’s Groups / Counseling
 - **BUT these alone will not bring healing and freedom to addiction**

Jesus: Marriage Covenant Is God’s Best, Blessed, Sexual Life – divorce laws will never prevent it

- **Vs. 31-32** – **Divorce as Cause of Adultery** –
 - Women had no legal rights in divorce – Jesus seeks to PROTECT women
 - Men had all the rights but needed protected from power to divorce for any reason
 - Unresolved anger issues and sexual issues two of most common reasons for divorce
 - Mt. 19:3-10 – Pharisees: “*Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?*” (Jesus quotes Gen. 1:27; 2:24) “*Why did Moses command a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?*” **Jesus:** “*Moses permitted divorce because your hearts were hard.*”

MORE Desire, Not Less is what missing In the Healing of Sexual Lust, Adultery, and Divorce!

- **Vs. 6** - *Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst (desire)** for righteousness, they will be filled.*
- **Vs. 8** – *Blessed are the **pure in heart** for they will see God.*

Jesus Preaches Repentance will progressively change our heart’s DESIRES through changing our *thinking, feeling, and choosing!*

Increase Your “Hunger & Thirst” For God’s Personal, Powerful Presence!

Cultivate MORE Desire and “Loving MUCH” – Rom. 12:1-2 More time w/ Jesus, not same or less!

- 1. Costly Worship** – woman’s expensive jar of perfume; sacrifice of time, money, service, image, reputation, etc. to “spend time” in God’s personal, powerful presence; sit w/ Jesus
- 2. Costly Confession** – forgiveness of “many sins”; confess to trusted friend, pastor, counselor
- 3. Costly Forgiveness** – God is forgiving your “many sins” – **The Gospel “Cost” Jesus his life!**
- 4. Costly Repentance** – “your faith saved you; go in peace” – daily examine thinking, feeling, and choosing for ongoing repentance.

Prayer: Father, forgive me for all my sexual sin. I Invite your Holy Spirit to give me the thoughts, feelings, and desires of Jesus. Increase my desire for Your personal, and powerful presence as I present my body to you as a “living sacrifice”. Amen.