



**Be Honest With Yourself, Part 2**  
**(The Truth About My Private Issues)**  
*(Anger & Lust — Matthew 5:21–30)*

**“Whoever is angry with his brother...whoever looks at a woman to lust for her...”***(Matthew 5:22, 28)*

**Date: January 11, 2025**

**Monthly Summary:**

In Matthew 5, Jesus confronts the **inner life** before outward behavior:

1. **The Truth About My Attitude** (*The Beatitudes — Matthew 5:3–12*)
2. **The Truth About My Private Issues** (*Anger & Lust — Matthew 5:21–30*)
3. **The Truth About My Relationships** (*Retaliation & Love — Matthew 5:38–48*)
4. **The Truth About My Identity** (*Salt & Light — Matthew 5:13–16*)

**Text:** Matthew 5:21–30

**Big Question:** *What am I pretending is under control?*

**Monthly Context Reminder:**

**Note:** Jesus is still dealing with the inner life before public behavior.

1. Attitude (*Matt. 5:3–12*)
2. **Private Issues** (*Matt. 5:21–30*) ← Today
3. Relationships (*Matt. 5:38–48*)
4. Identity (*Matt. 5:13–16*)

### I. Jesus Redefines the Real Problem

#### A. Matthew 5:21–22 (NIV)

- “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.’ 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.”

#### B. Matthew 5:27–28 (NIV)

- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”



**Note: Jesus shifts the conversation from:**

- What you did to
- What you're feeding

**Note: Sin does not start in public —It starts in **private permission**.**

**Greek Insight That Simplifies the Issue:**

**Anger in Greek: *orgizō* (ὄργιζω)** Means: *settled anger, stored resentment*

- Not a flash — **a condition**
- Anger that lives **rent-free** in your heart

**Note: Jesus is not condemning emotion —He's confronting unresolved hostility.**

**Lust in Greek: *epithymeō* (ἐπιθυμέω)**

- Means: *to fix your desire on*
- **To set your mind on repeatedly**
- Not noticing — **dwelling**
- Desire that keeps calling you back

**Note: Lust is not attraction —It is **permission without restraint**.**

**Down-Home Meaning (Non-Bible Language)**

*'The problem isn't what crossed your mind — it's what you keep rehearsing.'*

**Note: Private rehearsals eventually demand public performances.**

## II. Samson — A Case Study in Private Issues

Samson did not lose his strength suddenly. He **gave it away gradually**.

### A. Samson's Pattern

- He saw what he wanted (*Judges 14:1–2*)
- He touched what he was forbidden to touch (*Judges 14:8–9*)
- He stayed where he should not have stayed (*Judges 16:1*)
- He told what he should have guarded (*Judges 16:17*)
- Every step looked small
- Every step weakened him

### B. Samson's Self-Deception

**"I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free."**

*(Judges 16:20)*



“But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.”

**Samson thought:**

- The power was automatic
- The strength was permanent
- The consequences were negotiable

**Note:** You don't lose strength first —you lose awareness first.

### III. Jesus' Extreme Language Why So Serious?

- **“If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...”**  
(Matthew 5:29)
- **“If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off...”**  
(Matthew 5:30)

**Note:**

- Jesus is not promoting self-harm. He is teaching **decisive honesty**.
- Anything you refuse to confront will eventually **confront you**.

**Down-Home Summary:**

- “Stop managing what God is calling you to remove.”
- If you keep it, it will cost you more than you think.

**Closing Truth:**

**Private honesty leads to:**

- Public stability
- Spiritual clarity
- Long-term strength
- You don't have to be perfect —but you **do** have to be honest.

**Closing Declaration:**

**“Lord, help me confront what I've been feeding  
so it doesn't destroy what You're building.”**

**Next Time: January 18, 2026**

**The Truth About My Relationships (Retaliation & Love — Matthew 5:38–48)**

**“Love your enemies...”(Matthew 5:44)**